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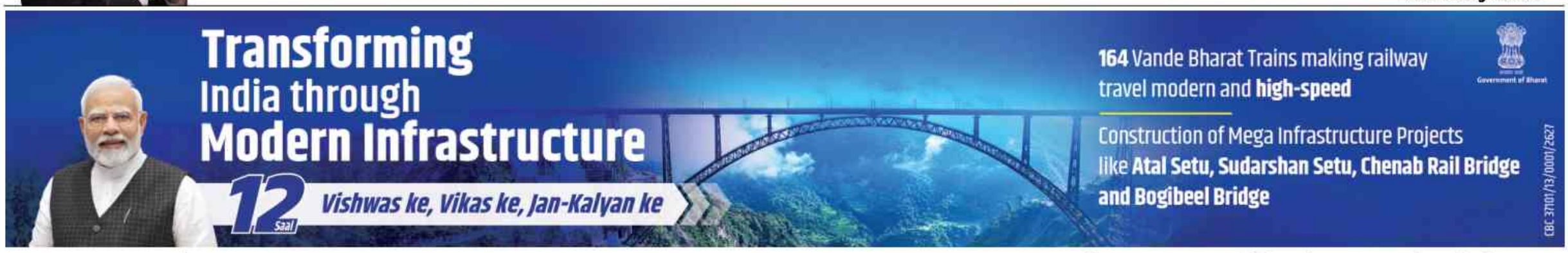
THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 4 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

SpaceX raises $85.7bn in its US IPO after underwriters exercised a greenshoe option, which permits sale of extra shares beyond the original offering to meet strong demand


Transforming
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12 Saal
Vishwas ke, Vikas ke, Jan-Kalyan ke
164 Vande Bharat Trains making railway travel modern and high-speed
Construction of Mega Infrastructure Projects like Atal Setu, Sudarshan Setu, Chenab Rail Bridge and Bogibeel Bridge
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Krishna Byre Gowda to take charge today

After days of suspense and lobbying in Delhi, senior minister Krishna Byre Gowda will formally take charge as Greater Bengaluru development minister Tuesday. Sources claimed there will be no change in his portfolio. He had sought clarification on the scope of his role, saying a clear delineation of responsibilities was essential for effective functioning. He had contended a portfolio without planning authorities was incomplete. TNN

OTHER TOP STORIES

- Fewer jobs in Punjab as **drug-hit youth** become cut-price hitmen | P 15
- **3 Kukis injured** in an attack by suspected Naga militants in Manipur
- CJP founder **Abhijeet Dipke slapped** during Jaipur protest, 5 arrested | P 11
- Hyd **road named after Trump** opens on June 23 | P 10
- How this dead **star's final explosion** could help map universe | P 11

2 dead in Mysuru restaurant fire

A fire at a restaurant in Mysuru city claimed two of its employees and injured seven, including the owner and manager, on Monday. At least 15 people were rescued. The 26-year-old head cook from Manipur and a staffer from Nepal were trapped inside the kitchen and could not be rescued. P 4

Sarvam is India's latest AI unicorn

AI startup Sarvam has raised $234 million in a funding round led by HCLTech and Bessemer Venture Partners, making it one of India's newest AI unicorns. After the latest funding round, Sarvam is valued at $1.5 billion. P 13

US, Iran agree on peace MoU; June 19 signing in Switzerland

Paves Way For Truce, 60-Day Talks Window

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Much to global relief, if not universal acclaim, US President Donald Trump on Sunday announced that Washington and Tehran had completed a "great deal" to bring peace to a region convulsed by more than three months of war.

"Ships of the World, start your engines. Let the oil flow!" Trump said on Truth Social soon after. US and Iran will lift their Hormuz blockades after the signing.

▶EDIT PAGE: Oil quiet?/ Trump's Big small Iran deal

But behind Trump's rhetorical flourish lies a more modest reality: what has been concluded for now is a memorandum of understanding (MoU) establishing an interim ceasefire and a 60-day negotiating process expected to settle the hardest questions.

The MoU, a digital version of which is reported to have been signed — by Trump and Vance, and Iran speaker Mohammad Ghalibaf — is expected to be inked in Switzerland on Friday (June 19).

▶Israel worries, P 16

STRAIT TO OPEN, IRAN TO COLLECT 'FEES'

- US and Iran say Strait of Hormuz would be **reopened 'to all commercial vessels' once MoU is signed.** US & Iran blockade to be lifted together
- Iran's semi-official Fars news agency says under MoU, traffic through the **Strait would be regulated by Iran in coordination with Oman**
- While **US says it will push for a 'toll-free' Hormuz**, Tehran insists it will charge 'maritime service fees', it shouldn't be called a toll
- US vice-prez **Vance says both sides have 'signed the deal digitally'**, but Iran will receive relief on sanctions depending on compliance
- Discussions this week to lay the ground for **60 days of technical talks on Iran's N-programme**

Pact fails to resolve Lebanon question

Israeli ministers said the country was not party to the peace deal, wouldn't withdraw from land seized in Lebanon in recent fighting, which would continue. Iran and Pakistan both say a truce in Lebanon is part of the deal, while a senior US official denied this. P 16

Oil prices fall to 3-mth low, Brent at $83

Oil prices slipped to a three-month low Monday, with Brent crude falling to $83. The Indian oil basket was at $86.8 on Friday, the last available price. Rising for the second straight session, the sensex gained over 1%, gaining 736 points to close above 76,000. P 12

How the war changed India's trade map

Oman, the 30th largest source of imports for India in April-May 2025, has jumped to 10th spot (imports nearly 4x) in the first two months of the current financial year, while UAE slipped to fourth place and Russia took second spot in April-May. US took third place. India's hunt for LPG or cooking gas is behind US's surge while energy also helped boost imports from Brazil and Peru. The latest numbers show the West Asia war has quietly altered India's trade map and equations.

On the export front too, in April-May, Singapore overtook China and the Netherlands to emerge as India's third largest destination, with Indian exports increasing 2.2 times. P 13

▶Final touches to US trade deal next week, P 11

Safe Hormuz passage for Disha sparks hope for 34 India-bound ships

Dipak Dash & Atul Mathur | TNN

New Delhi: The safe transit of India-bound LNG carrier Disha through the Strait of Hormuz Monday has raised expectations for safe and swift passage of another 34 Indian- and foreign-flagged ships, stranded in the Persian Gulf, to sail to Indian ports, as the US and Iran have announced a decision to sign a peace deal.

While the expected sailing of 16 of these ships loaded with fertiliser will help augment supply of the key soil nutrient, policymakers are keeping fingers crossed as improvement in energy supplies may not immediately translate into relief due to extensive damage to facilities, such as Ras Laffan in Qatar.

▶Crosses safely, P 12

Settebello ignored 60 warnings: US official

Palau-flagged vessel MT Settebello at the centre of the India-US standoff had ignored close to 60 verbal warnings before it came under fire from US forces last week, said a US official. Three Indians were killed in the attack, after which India registered a strong protest. TNN

Fourth Indian-crewed vessel hit, sailors safe

Hong Kong-flagged MT Bockem Marengo became the 4th vessel with an Indian crew to come under attack near the Strait of Hormuz in conflict-hit West Asia. Shipping ministry on Monday said Indian sailors are safe. TNN

PM welcomes deal, hopes for freedom of navigation soon

ANI

PM Modi and Slovakia PM Robert Fico at Bratislava on Monday | P 10

PM Narendra Modi welcomed the understanding reached between the US and Iran and hoped its implementation would help restore peace and stability in the region and ensure freedom of navigation and commerce. In a post on X from Slovakia, he hoped for a "sustainable final agreement", citing loss of life and economic disruption due to the West Asia war. P 10

K'taka to pull plug on free electricity to 10L non-voters

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Bengaluru: After Gruha Lakshmi clean-up, the state govt is now auditing another popular guarantee programme, Gruha Jyothi, which offers free electricity up to 200 units every month.

With State Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority flagging lakhs of ineligible beneficiaries, the govt has decided to strictly implement eligibility norms. Beneficiaries must be voters in Karnataka and one beneficiary can claim only one RR (revenue register) number.

A six-month audit reveals over 10 lakh non-voters in Karnataka have availed themselves of the scheme. Besides, a considerable number of individuals have been drawing free power through multiple RR numbers. At least 1.7 crore beneficiaries avail free power under five Escoms, with the govt spending Rs 800cr a month in subsidy.

In some cases, beneficiaries were diverting free electricity for commercial activities. The govt is now considering the introduction of KYC process to verify whether beneficiaries are registered voters in Karnataka and RR numbers belong to residential units.

▶Ghosts, rich tax-payers quietly drained coffers, P 6

▶Not for outsiders, P 2

GOVT PLANS KYC

- Gruha Jyothi is meant for domestic consumption, but beneficiaries found claiming **free power using multiple RR numbers**
- **Subsidised power is being misused for commercial ventures** operating from residential premises, including offices & retail outlets
- Know Your Customer (KYC) process might be introduced to **verify free power eligibility**

1.7cr Total no. of beneficiaries

₹800cr Govt spends per month in power subsidy

Ahead of retest, NEET glitches trouble students

Manash.Gohain
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New Delhi: With less than a week left for the NEET-UG 2026 re-exam on June 21, social media platforms were flooded on Sunday and Monday with complaints from candidates struggling to download admit cards, facing refund-related confusion and reporting technical glitches on the National Testing Agency portal.

NTA said it is working towards resolving all issues, including refunds. Till Monday morning, over four lakh aspirants had downloaded their admit cards. Meanwhile, Ahmedabad cops uncovered an alleged fraud network targeting NEET candidates. The May 3 examination was cancelled on May 12 following a paper leak.

On Monday morning, NTA stated that around four lakh candidates had already downloaded their admit cards. "We are aware that some of you are facing technical glitches or server issues in accessing your admit cards," the agency said.

▶Login failures, P 11

Priyank seeks answers on legal status of RSS

It's Politics, Says Chief Bhagwat

Times News Network

Bengaluru/Thrissur: Karnataka home minister Priyank Kharge has written to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat seeking clarity on the organisation's legal status, finances and accountability mechanisms, saying an outfit of its size and influence should be subject to greater scrutiny.

Bhagwat, in Kerala's Thrissur, Monday said the organisation is neither secretive nor operating outside public scrutiny, dismissing Kharge's demand as "politics... Over 100 years, nobody has told us, 'you must register'."

In a letter dated June 13, Priyank congratulated RSS on completing 100 years. He, however, said its vast organisational reach made constitutional compliance imperative. "It is precisely because of this scale, influence and reach that the RSS must be held to the highest standards of transparency, accountability and constitutional compliance," Priyank said in his letter shared on X on Monday.

▶Outfits accountable, P 4

Starmer: UK to ban social media for U16s

Britain will ban children aged under 16 from using a range of social media apps, including Snapchat, TikTok and YouTube, to protect them from harmful content and excessive screen time, PM Keir Starmer said Monday.

The ban, likely to take effect next year, makes the UK part of a growing global movement to tighten online safety for kids. Australia, Canada, Brazil and Indonesia have introduced legislation or announced age-based curbs. P 16

Party with ₹75 in bank to gain from TMC rebellion

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@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Twenty rebel TMC Lok Sabha MPs have turned a little-known Bengal outfit that once polled just 822 votes into a national political talking point. Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI), headquartered in a modest two-storey building bearing the name of an NGO in Howrah's Andul and guarded by BSF and Bengal police since Sunday night, suddenly finds itself claiming to represent Bengal's largest parliamentary bloc after absorbing TMC's breakaway MPs.

The party wasted no time. It launched a social media page Monday, welcomed the MPs and highlighted its election symbol — a pen nib with seven rays. Party sources said NCPI ended FY 2022-23 with a closing balance of Rs 75.

The news caught NCPI functionaries off guard. Founder and national organising secretary Shantanu Dey admitted he learnt about it through social media and news reports.

▶News on social media, P 10

Buzz of breakaway MPs joining Cabinet

The breakaway MPs are being tipped for berths in the Union Cabinet with Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Sharmila Sarkar said to be among those being considered. Both MPs, however, claimed they did not have any such information. Bengal has two BJP junior ministers at the Centre. P 10

200 Stanford grads walk out of Pichai's speech

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

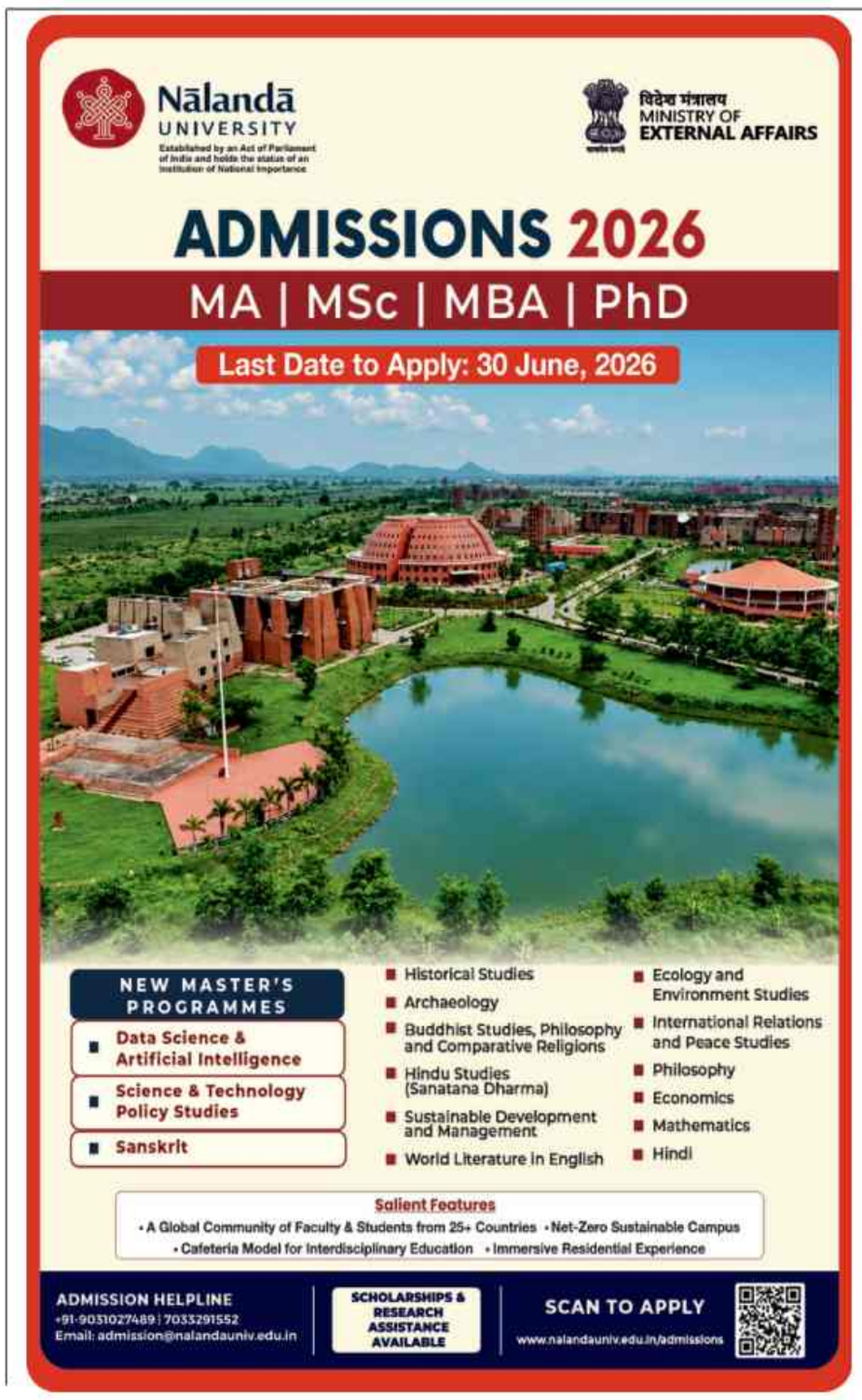
Washington: When Sundar Pichai was studying at Stanford in the 1990s, he once skipped class to go to LA. When he returned to Stanford to deliver the commencement address on Sunday, some students skipped Sundar Pichai.

It was a very Silicon Valley graduation ceremony: the CEO of Google, one of the most powerful companies on Earth, addressing some of the brightest young minds in the US — only to discover that some had clicked "unsubscribe". As Pichai took the stage, an estimated 100 to 200 graduates stood up and marched out, chanting "Free, free Palestine".

ISRAEL CONTRACT LINK

- Some Stanford grads carried signs reading **'ICE spies with Google AI'**, others waved Palestinian flags
- Organised by Students for Justice in Palestine and No Tech for Apartheid, protests targeted the Silicon Valley giant's contracts with the Israeli govt
- **New grads were incensed by Project Nimbus**, Google's $1.2bn cloud-computing partnership with Israel

▶Some carried signs, P 16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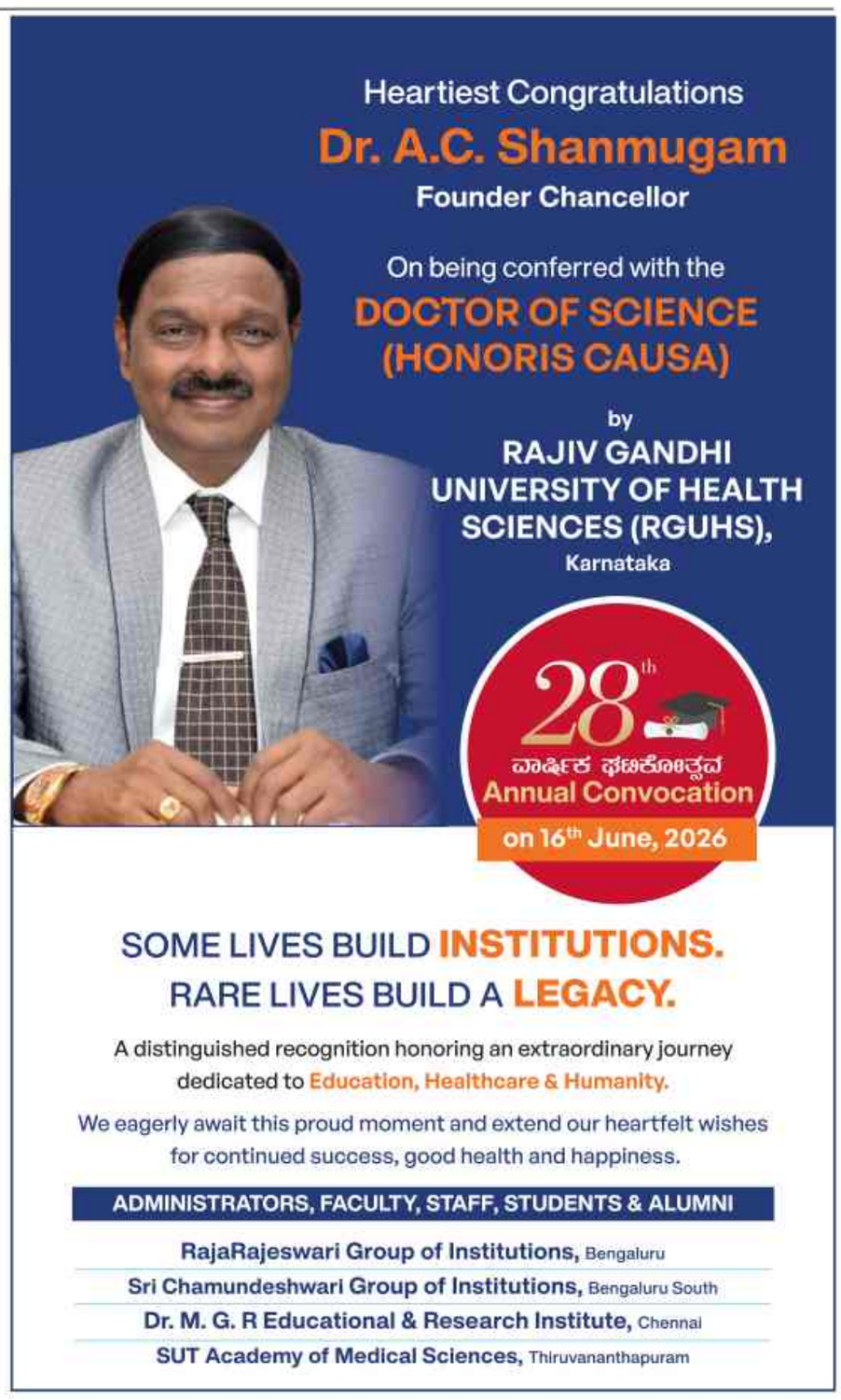
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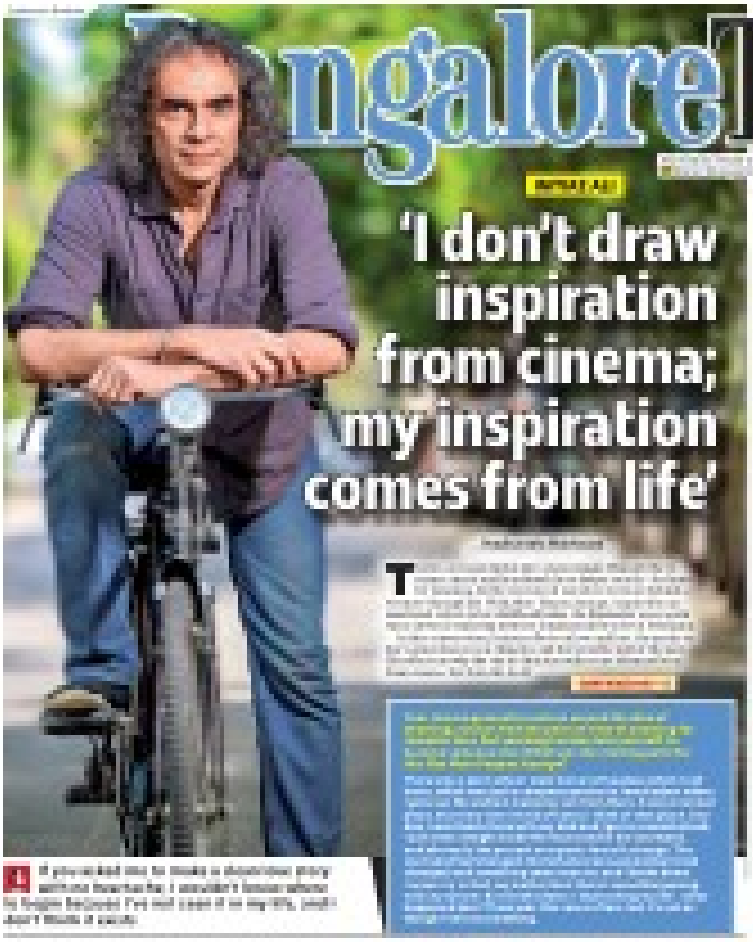
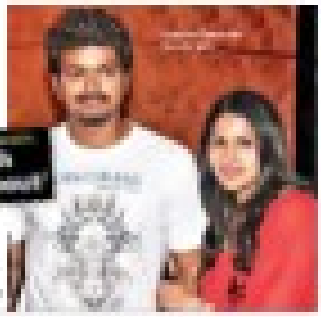


'I don't draw inspiration from cinema; my inspiration comes from life'

'Mainstream's a great ride. Now for the roads unexplored'

Vijay-Sangeetha divorce case: Family court rejects virtual hearing appeal



A fully AI-generated film on Iran crackdown premieres at Tribeca

Buzzstop

CHHAAVA AND KANTARA BHAGYA ACTRESS SANCHITA UGALE PASSES AWAY

A WORLD CUP, BUT NOT FOR EVERYONE

TOUGH JOB BEHIND WHISTLE
Traffic Duty Opens Citizens' Eyes

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Bengaluru: Just a few hours of managing Bengaluru's busy junctions was enough to leave many volunteers with a reality check of the city's traffic problem.

What began as a civic effort to bring citizens closer to the ground realities of traffic management has steadily drawn strong participation. Since its inception in Oct 2025, 1,864 people have volunteered under Bengaluru traffic police's (BTP) initiative 'Be a Traffic Cop for a Day', where anyone is given a chance to experience being in the shoes of a traffic cop.

Officials said the initiative was designed to help citizens understand the difficulties faced by traffic personnel and encourage better discipline and cooperation on roads. Data shows a majority of the participants were aged between 18 and 50 and were mostly students and working professionals.

Volunteers were deployed at key junctions in different areas, including Haralur, Wilson Garden, Banashankari and Jayanagar, after a two-hour orientation on operational challenges and safety.

AI

Volunteers who spoke to **TOI** said the experience exposed them to 20-30 violations in a single shift, including helmetless riding, mobile phone use while driving, reckless honking, and motorists ignoring instructions. Many also highlighted the strain of working in pollution and heavy congestion. Anoop A Shetty, DCP (traffic-west), said: "A majority chose locations such as Chalukya Circle and City Grounds. It was good to see many youngsters participating and understanding the traffic system. Many said they learnt a lot, and also gave feedback on minor changes needed to manage traffic, which we have noted down."

"I volunteered for a day at a traffic junction as a stress-buster to try something different and understand the challenges on the ground. What I realised is that managing traffic at manual signals is extremely difficult. Vehicles come from all four directions, and if the volunteer or traffic personnel steps away even for a minute or gets distracted, everything builds up and chaos ensues. People often don't listen, keep moving when they have to stop, and that makes it hard to control traffic
Syed Ghouse Peeran | 40, TECHIE

"When I was volunteering at Wilson Garden, I witnessed an accident — a rider sped through a red signal, his bike skidded and he hit his head. It was shocking, but traffic personnel provided assistance immediately. Standing for hours amid pollution and the harsh sun is also difficult. The experience gave me a completely different perspective of the challenges they face every day
Mohammed Yousuf | 21, SERVICE ADVISER

"I worked with traffic police from 6.30pm to 8.30pm and, in just two hours, witnessed 20-30 traffic violations. I had always been fascinated by their work since childhood, but this was my first real experience on the ground. It greatly increased my respect for what they do. I saw riders without helmets and motorists using mobile phones while driving. Even with three officers on duty, some refused to stop when signalled
Allamprabhu M Nasi | HEAD OF MACHINERY MANUFACTURING COMPANY

"I was bored and tired with hospital duties and wanted to try something different, so I enrolled. I was at Banashankari signal from 6pm to 10.30pm. Pedestrians are the biggest issue — they often don't follow signals or use zebra crossings. Even when vehicles have a green signal, pedestrians keep crossing, blocking movement, and creating chaos that can lead to accidents. I tried to manage them, but most people don't listen, saying rules are meant to be broken — **Surya Kiran** | 23, DOCTOR

Unfinished Roadworks Grind Traffic To A Crawl ■ Dust & Craters Worsen Ordeal

Dug up & left behind: Residents seek answers for state of D'ballapur Road

Jahnavi@timesofindia.com

Pics: TOI

IN CONSTANT REPAIR: The key gateway to Yelahanka is riddled with potholes, dust and construction chaos, leaving commuters stranded in traffic and affecting local businesses

Bengaluru: For several commuters entering and leaving Yelahanka every day, the stretch of State Highway 9 (Doddaballapur Road) has become an obstacle course. Dug-up sections, loose gravel, dust clouds and widening potholes have turned what was once a busy arterial road into a daily test of patience for motorists, residents and traders.

The 5km stretch from NES office to Nagenahalli Gate has become a daily ordeal for commuters, with uneven surfaces, scattered construction debris and thick dust clouds kicked up by passing heavy vehicles. Residents say conditions have worsened over time, with little clarity on which agency is responsible

OSTE REALITY

for the ongoing works or when the road is likely to be restored. The trouble begins at Yelahanka police station junction, where a flyover project has been under construction since 2022. While road-widening work has been taken up on the carriageway towards the city, excavation for drainage and water pipelines is under way on the opposite side, compounding the disruption.

Residents say multiple points along the busy highway have been repeatedly dug up and patched, leaving behind poorly levelled roads that slow traffic and pose safety risks. Peak-hour congestion has become routine near choke points such as Puttenahalli Lake and Anantapura Gate. Officegoers returning towards Doddaballapur Road report getting stuck for at least 15 minutes in gridlock.

"As long-time residents, we've seen this road being dug up several times, but this time it is dragging on endlessly," said Priyanka Shetty, who lives in an apartment complex along the corridor. "There is no clarity on which agency is doing the work. Some workers mention BWSSB, others say it is for gas pipelines. Meanwhile, potholes are dangerous — we've seen two-wheeler riders lose balance."

Officials, however, offer conflicting accounts. A Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) official denied any major ongoing work on the road. "Apart from a repair carried out a couple of months ago due to damage caused by another agency, BWSSB is not executing work here. The pipeline work is being handled by Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) for the industrial belt around Doddaballapur," the official said.

Apart from traffic snarls, dust pollution has emerged as a major concern. "Dust from the road seeps into homes despite shut doors and windows. Cleaning is a daily struggle, and it has become impossible to either walk or commute on the road without masks," Priyanka added.

"After improvements in Hebbal, the commute from St John's Road to my home used to take about an hour. But the ongoing disruption near Puttenahalli has added fresh delays, with at least 15 minutes now lost on that stretch alone. Even in the mornings, a short 500-700m drive from home can take 15-20 minutes, with vehicles crawling through the bottleneck. The stop-start traffic has also begun to affect fuel efficiency
Sudesh Prasad | REGULAR COMMUTER

"Travel on Doddaballapur Road has turned into a daily ordeal, with thick dust hanging in the air to the point where visibility is often compromised. Traffic crawls through the stretch, doubling regular commute times and testing commuter patience. Many residents also point to the difficult working conditions faced by traffic police, who remain stationed amid the dust and congestion throughout the day
Anusha Morching | ARCHAEOLOGIST & RESIDENT

"The digging has been going on for months now and even crossing the road has become impossible. The construction dust is unbearable, and the road is turning into an accident spot. The roads are bad from near Yelahanka police station; the whole commute is a hassle
Manpreet Kaur Arora | RESIDENT

"The only approach road to the layout, which serves multiple apartment complexes, has been left in a hazardous, barely motorable condition for the past two months because of a delayed sewage pipeline project. Progress on the work has been unacceptably slow, and the stretch is now marked by large potholes, open craters, and deep trenches running through the centre and across several sections
Raghavendra Prasad | BANK EMPLOYEE & RESIDENT

Businesses affected

The ongoing disruption has also begun to weigh heavily on businesses along the corridor, particularly eateries. Many traders report a sharp drop in footfall, citing restricted parking access and a persistently dusty, uninviting environment that has kept customers away. "In the past four months, my business has dropped by more than 50%," claimed Manje Gowda, who runs a small eatery nearby. "Customers cannot park because the roads are dug up, and no one wants to dine in such dusty conditions. Regulars sometimes opt for takeaway, but new customers are not coming in at all."

However, respite might be in sight as KIADB says the pipeline work is almost complete. "Only about 150 metres of pipeline work remains. We've already reimbursed the restoration cost to Karnataka Road Development Corporation Ltd and the restoration work has even begun," said Govinda Reddy, CEO of KIADB.

School bus access issues

Besides the main road, even the layouts off the road are facing similar civic issues. In Suryavamshi Layout, which has over 2,000 residents, roads are in such bad condition that school buses have stopped entering the layout. In a letter to various civic agencies, the residents have highlighted that as a result, children are forced to disembark on Doddaballapur Road and walk to their houses.

Locals up in arms after dogs attack girl, 4, in north B'luru

Hamsaveni.N@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: A four-year-old girl suffered multiple injuries to face, hands and legs after a pack of six stray dogs attacked her near the indoor stadium at CQAL Layout, Sahakarnagar, north Bengaluru, Sunday evening. The incident has again raised concerns over the stray dog menace in the city.

The girl, Sangeetha, has since been administered anti-rabies injections at a local hospital and is said to be recovering, sources said.

As per CCTV footage, the daughter of construction workers from Yadgir was walking near the indoor stadium when the dogs suddenly closed in on her around 4.30pm. The girl's father Hanumantha said a family regularly feeds the stray dogs. "My daughter would often watch them. These dogs tend to become aggressive whenever unfamiliar people come into the area," he said.

The incident took place under the jurisdiction of Bengaluru North City Corporation and triggered outrage among residents. Officials from the corporation's animal husbandry wing visited the spot and gathered information from residents. Pommala Sunil Kumar, Bengaluru North commissioner, said the civic body would take action against aggressive animals.

"I've taken an update on the child's condition. We'll remove the aggressive dogs and keep them under observation. If dog-related complaints were raised during our public grievance programmes and were not attended to, it is our fault. In any case, I've instructed officials to revisit all dog-related complaints. Our shelter facility is getting ready," he said.

Residents said the fear of stray dogs has become a part of daily life in the layout, affecting children, senior citizens, morning walkers, delivery personnel and even sanitation workers. They alleged that dogs picked up by civic authorities are often released back into the same locality within days.

"We're scared. Even the woman who sweeps our roads has avoided this stretch for nearly ten months because of strays. We shared CCTV footage because people often dismiss our complaints. This time, there was clear evidence of the incident. We want the authorities to understand the gravity of the situation," said Saroja Krishnaswamy, a resident.

Pramod, a tutor from the layout, said they are not against dogs, but not at the cost of people's safety. "There are five or six stray dogs in the area. Residents, students, morning walkers and even security guards have faced attacks not infrequently."

The latest attack comes amid continuing concern over stray dog-related incidents in Bengaluru. In July last year, a 68-year-old man was mauled to death by a pack of dogs in Kodigehalli, while several other attacks reported across the city have raised questions about the effectiveness of existing animal-control measures.

TOI

RECENT STRAY ATTACKS

- **March 2026** Young girl injured by stray dog in Muneshwara Layout, Laggere
- **Nov 2025** Veeresh Ullala, 33, suffered injuries on neck and hands in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, Kodigehalli
- **July 2025** Seethappa, 68, from Telecom Layout in Kodigehalli, fatally attacked around 3am
- **Aug 2024** Rajdulari Sinha, 76, retired teacher, died after she was attacked by 10-12 dogs during morning walk inside Air Force residential campus, Jalahalli East

DPS teacher, 54, riding pillion falls off Rapido bike, dies

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A 54-year-old school teacher riding pillion on a bike-taxi operated by Rapido died after she accidentally fell from the two-wheeler in JP Nagar late Sunday night. The victim is S Radha, teacher with Delhi Public School (South) and a resident of Arakere.

Police said Radha visited her friends and relatives in Nagarabhavi and was riding back home around 8pm when the accident occurred. "She booked the ride with a lady captain. On reaching Nandini Junction on 24th Main, JP Nagar, Radha, who was sitting "side-saddle" (with both legs on the same side of the bike), lost balance and fell. In the melee, the lady captain also fell. Both were wearing half-helmets. Radha sustained deep injuries on her nose and forehead, resulting in internal bleeding. She was shifted to a nearby private hospital where she succumbed," a cop said.

Man crushed to death by garbage truck

A routine ride to work ended in tragedy for a 34-year-old man after a speeding garbage truck hit his scooter and ran over him near Sirsi Circle on Mysuru Road Monday morning. Satish, a resident of Goripalya near JJ Nagar, worked as an attender a private firm near Town Hall.

Police said Satish left home as usual and was riding towards Town Hall around 9.30am. As he approached Sirsi Circle, the GBA garbage truck collided with the scooter. The impact threw Satish onto the road and he was crushed to death under the rear wheel of the truck. Chamarajpet traffic police subjected truck driver Narasimhalu, 36, to an alcometer test and the result was negative. TNN

Schemes not meant for outsiders: DKS

▶ Continued from page 1

Chief minister DK Shivakumar Monday said these schemes are not meant for outsiders. "We'll ensure the benefits are enjoyed only by voters in Karnataka. Why should we extend these benefits to those who do not vote here?"

Guarantee Implementation Authority vice-chairperson Dinesh Gooligowda said several households have been found availing benefits through multiple RR numbers. "The scheme is applicable to only one domestic RR number per beneficiary. In many urban households, there are two RR numbers — one for domestic lighting and another for water pumping motors or borewells. While the scheme is intended only for domestic consumption, several beneficiaries have been found claiming free electricity for water pumps and borewells as well. In some cases, electricity subsidised under the scheme is being used for commercial activities operating from residential premises... We've urged govt to examine these instances of misuse and plug leakages," he said.

AI, startups & talent will shape city: Expats

Jahnavi@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Expatriates living and working in Bengaluru see the city evolving into one of the world's leading technology and business hubs over the next decade, citing its cosmopolitan culture, economic strength and thriving startup ecosystem.

Speaking at Expat Business Council's (EBC) June networking event last weekend, they shared their outlook on the city, identifying AI, technology and advanced manufacturing as key sectors expected to attract investments. Chandra Arya, CEO of Acleo Strategies Inc and former MP of Canada, said, "Bengaluru is not just a city. The GDP is big and population is big. It is equal to or better than many countries."

Arya said that opportunities exist across nearly every tech sector, from chip design and PCB manufacturing to space technology. He also noted that businesses looking to set up offices should look beyond the central business district, as the city is rapidly expanding. "Expansion is coming from places like Dobbaspet, Devanahalli, Hoskote, Chikkaballapur, Peenya, Nagasandra and Whitefield side," added Arya.

Impressed by jugaad

Heike Wolter, co-author of the book 'What The West Should Learn From India', said, "What I liked most about India was finding jugaad (workaround). It is so common, and people embrace difficult situations and find a way out."

"Being an international city with a lot of startups with cross-cultural exchange, we know Bengaluru will grow further. Hopefully, it develops in a good and green direction. The city already has many trees, which I hope it can maintain," said EBC president Anna Kuhnt.

When asked what sectors are likely to attract investment, Kuhnt said the rise of AI makes it difficult to predict, but blue-collar jobs and skills like handicrafts will continue to remain relevant as they cannot be easily replaced by AI. "I also think networking will become more important because humans will, again, become more central in future," she said.

Franco Bellillo, COO of SUN Mobility, said Bengaluru will continue to attract investments in the IT and AI sectors and will remain a major tech hub, but infrastructure could become a limiting factor. "I think the biggest block to Bengaluru's growth is traffic and infrastructure. Moving around here is a hassle. As it is, I see people moving to other cities that put more money into infrastructure, like Hyderabad. Bengaluru will remain the hub with many well-established companies, but when these companies think of expansion, they may start to move because of costs and infrastructure."

Arya echoed similar concerns, saying physical connectivity remains one of the city's biggest challenges. "Transport is an obvious challenge. The Metro is expanding, but last-mile connectivity from Metro to the destination is still a challenge, despite autorickshaws trying to fill the gap."

Man, 78, accepts lift offer from stranger, robbed of gold ring

Bengaluru: What appeared to be a kind gesture from a stranger during a rainy evening turned into an expensive lesson for a 78-year-old man, who was tricked into parting with his gold ring worth over Rs 50,000.

K Sathyanarayana Rao told police the incident occurred on June 8 at 7.15pm. Rao had gone for his evening walk and stopped near a vegetable shop on Muddinapalya Main Road, west Bengaluru. As rain intensified, he decided to return home without making any purchases.

An unidentified man with a child on a two-wheeler approached him and offered him a lift, saying he was travelling in the same direction towards Solapuradamma Temple. Initially declining the offer, the elderly man eventually agreed.

The stranger dropped Rao on the road leading to the temple. He pretended to notice the gold ring on Rao's finger and expressed interest in getting a similar design. On the pretext of examining it, he took the ring and sped away on his scooter. TNN

FILM REVIEWS
NOW IN CINEMAS

Spielberg trades spectacle for existential wonder

UP TO DATE | WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY

Lewis Hamilton secures long-awaited Grand Prix win

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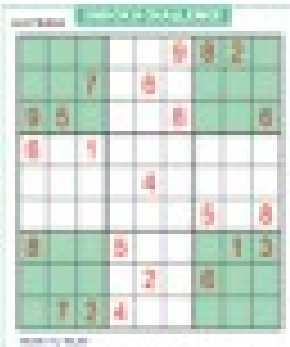
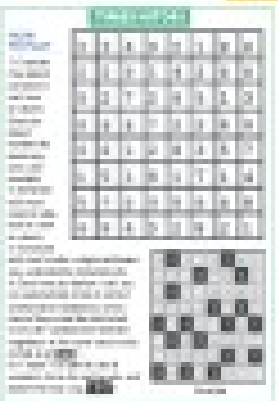
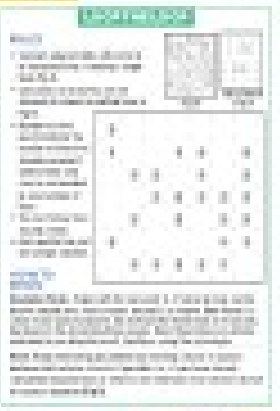
'And just like that... she is a Doctor'

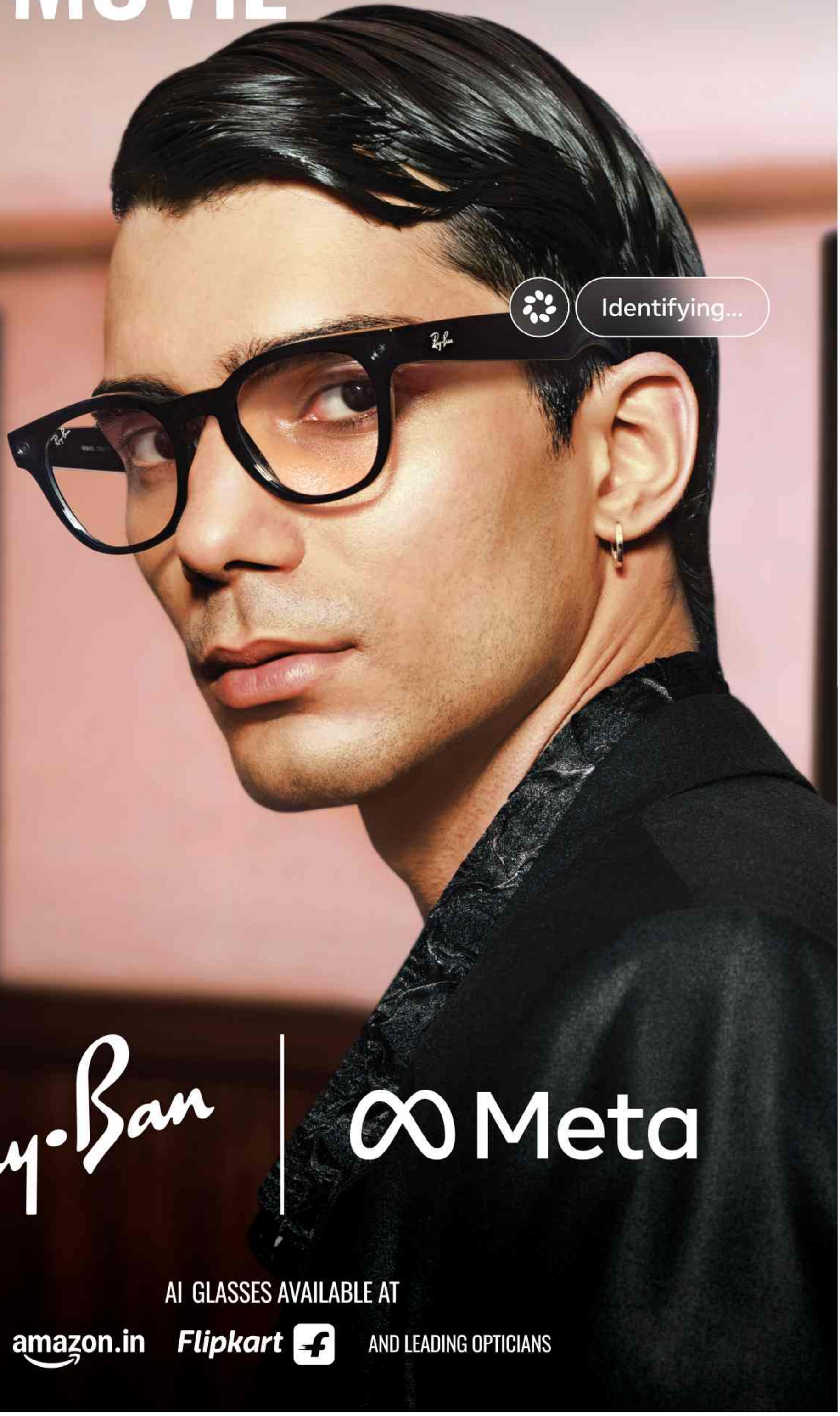
LEISURE







HEY META
TELL ME ABOUT
THIS MOVIE



Ray-Ban | Meta

AI GLASSES AVAILABLE AT

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Bans, bias and backlash: The 2026 World Cup's growing controversies

We need more nuanced female characters on stage: Asha Devi

Seoul turns rainbow for annual pride march

NEXA

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GRAND VITARA

Elephant scavenges plastic waste at MM Hills, sparks alarm

Niranjan.Kaggere
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Pics: TOI

SWACHH BHARAT? Wild animals, including elephants, were drawn to the trash left behind by lakhs of devotees at the shrine town

Bengaluru: Cows scavenging through garbage are a common sight in cities, but on Monday a far more alarming scene unfolded at Male Mahadeshwara Hills when an elephant was found rummaging through plastic-laden waste in search of food.

The disturbing sight came amid a massive influx of devotees to Karnataka's second-richest temple on an auspicious Amavasya day. The weekend-long rush of lakhs of pilgrims reportedly left behind tonnes of solid waste scattered across the hill shrine town, turning parts of the ecologically sensitive landscape into makeshift dumping grounds.

Forest department sources said devotees began arriving in large numbers from Saturday, triggering unregulated disposal of waste and exposing the strain on one of the state's most sensitive forest regions.

Plastic bags, food leftovers, disposable plates, bottles and sanitary waste were found strewn along roadsides, drainage channels and forest fringes.in violation of environmental norms.

Forest personnel also spotted wildlife, including elephants and other herbivores, being drawn to garbage dumps in search of food, raising concerns over behavioural change and the risk of plastic ingestion, digestive blockages and poisoning. Male Mahadeshwara Temple lies within the ecologically fragile landscape at the intersection of the Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary and the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, forming a critical ecological corridor that facilitates elephant and tiger movement between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Conservationists warn that such unmanaged waste accumulation in pilgrimage hotspots inside forest zones poses a direct threat to wildlife and habitat integrity, apart from increasing the risk of disease outbreaks. The landscape supports rich biodiversity, including tigers, leopards, elephants, dholes, sloth bears and gaurs, all dependent on undisturbed forest continuity.

A conservation volunteer at MM Hills said: "Previously when the chief minister had chaired a review meeting of Shri Male Mahadeswara Swamy Kshethra Development Authority, it was resolved to set up a waste segregation centre and STP keeping in mind the ecological importance of the region. But till date there is no sign of completion of those works."

After photographs of reckless dumping of waste and elephants searching for food in the garbage went viral online, the authority reportedly resorted to damage-control measures. "Officials buried the waste using backhoes at some stretches and set fire to the heaps of waste in other places," sources said.

Kumar Pushkar, IFS, principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife), said: "I've asked the Chamarajanagar CCF to visit the site and issue notices to the authority besides booking a case under Wildlife Protection Act."

Bizman scammed of ₹81k in Paytm soundbox offer

Bengaluru: A 56-year-old businessman fell victim to a fraud right inside his commercial establishment. The Rajajinagar resident was duped out of Rs 81,000 by a conman posing as an official from digital payments company Paytm.

The victim, Ramesh SR, operates a juice shop in Rajajinagar II Block. The incident unfolded during evening peak business hours when an unidentified man walked into the shop and approached Ramesh with a cost-saving proposition.

"The suspect introduced himself as a Paytm representative. He targeted the monthly rental fee that merchants typically pay to use Paytm soundbox — an audio device that alerts shopkeepers of successful digital transactions. The fraudster assured Ramesh that he could permanently waive the monthly subscription fee," police said.

Ramesh handed over his smartphone to let the "agent" update the settings. Ramesh became busy catering to a sudden rush of customers. The miscreant used this brief distraction to access Ramesh's financial applications. He executed two rapid electronic fund transfers totalling Rs 81,000 before returning the phone and fleeing the premises. TNN

As 2 kids watch, man stabs home guard-wife 15 times

Lost ₹8L In Online Gambling; Killed Her While Saying Sorry

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Having lost nearly Rs 8 lakh in online betting, a 38-year-old autorickshaw driver repeatedly stabbed his wife, a home guard with Mahadevapura police station, to death as their two young children watched in shock and horror Sunday evening.

On the pretext of reconciling with wife Manjula with whom he had a running feud, Pradeep Kumar met her at her parents' residence, fell at her feet seeking forgiveness and violently pulled her legs. As she suddenly sank, he pulled out a knife and stabbed her 15 times.

Police Monday arrested Pradeep for murder and causing hurt by dangerous weapons. Hours before committing the act, Pradeep had reportedly made selfie videos stating his betting habit had destroyed his family and claiming both he and his wife would soon die.

BEFORE TRAGEDY Hours before committing the murder, **Pradeep Kumar** reportedly made selfie videos stating his betting habit had destroyed his family and claiming both he and his wife **Manjula** would die soon

Police said Manjula and her children had been living at her parental home since June 11 following frequent marital discord. Family members alleged Pradeep suspected her fidelity and questioned the paternity of their children.

Pradeep arrived at his in-laws' residence around 7pm on the pretext of making a fresh start. He allegedly stabbed Manjula with a knife on her abdomen, chest, shoulder, hands and head.

Manjula was rushed to the KR Pura Government Hospital, where doctors declared her brought dead.

After the assault, Pradeep fled to a lorry parking area and informed police he had killed his wife and attempted suicide by slashing his hand. Police took him into custody from the lorry stand.

In the videos, Pradeep said he could not live without his wife. "If she refuses to come back even after my apology, I will kill her and end my life. My wife is a good person, but she is being influenced by her family members, especially her mother and sister. Money has become the most important thing in life," he allegedly said.

Manjula and Pradeep married in March 2012. They have two children: A 14-year-old daughter and a 10-year-old son. Manjula's aunt said the family had returned home after attending a funeral when they found Pradeep unleashing a fatal knife attack on Manjula.

Manjula's mother Selvi told police the couple's daughter sustained injuries on her fingers while trying to intervene during the attack.

Police said Pradeep had visited Mahadevapura police station Sunday looking for Manjula. A senior officer said Manjula had previously lodged complaints against Pradeep. The couple had undergone counselling and were reunited on earlier occasions.

Unable to bear harassment, Manjula had decided to seek a divorce and approached a lawyer and filed a petition on Saturday.

VTU classes go online Saturdays

Bengaluru: Henceforth, Saturday classes at engineering colleges under the umbrella of Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) will be held online.

The colleges usually hold classes on second, fourth and fifth Saturdays, while the first and third are holidays. With the new decision, which comes into effect immediately, students will no longer need to travel to college for Saturday classes.

TO SAVE FUEL

"The decision has been taken in support of the national fuel conservation initiative and to promote efficient utilisation of natural resources," stated a circular dated June 13.

"University Grants Commission (UGC) permits blended learning at a 60:40 ratio, with 60 being offline and 40 online. Here, we are going online only twice a month," said S Vidyashankar, vice-chancellor of VTU. "This is part of the austerity measures the nation is taking. We'll also make a contribution to conserve fuel as there are news items on shortage of fuel. We have lakhs of students studying under VTU. By conducting online classes on the remaining Saturdays, students will avoid commuting to college. This will save fuel, reduce traffic congestion, and also abate air pollution," he added.

The proposal was discussed at a recent executive committee meeting, where it was unanimously approved. This will apply to all 220 engineering colleges under VTU's jurisdiction, covering nearly 3 lakh students.

"Only theory classes will be held online Saturdays. Practical classes will be held on the remaining days, when classes are offline," the VC added.

Bank cannot lock entire a/c for partial freeze order: HC

Vasantha.Kumar
@timesofindia.com

When a freezing direction specifies an amount, the bank must permit operation of the remaining balance, unless the direction requires full freezing of the account

Bengaluru: A bank has no power to expand the freezing of funds in an account beyond limits stipulated in official directions, the Karnataka high court has ruled.

It said in its recent order that whenever a freezing direction specifies a particular amount, the bank must permit the operation of the remaining balance in the account, unless the direction itself requires complete freezing of the account.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj made the observation while allowing a petition filed by Bengaluru resident Madhu.

The private sector employee approached the court challenging the action of IndusInd Bank's Kothanur branch in putting his bank account under freeze based on two communications — one issued by cybercrime police of Mehsana, Gujarat, for Rs 15,000 and another received from Barrackpore police station in West Bengal for Rs 10,000. According to him, the communications instructed the bank authorities to keep only Rs 25,000 amount under freeze.

The bank, however, defended its action by stating that it proceeded to freeze the entire account of the petitioner apprehending the possibility of further such directions.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj noted that the authority exercised by the bank in the case is not an independent power.

The bank acts merely as a custodian of the account and is required to implement the directions lawfully issued by the competent investigating authorities. Its authority is therefore circumscribed by the terms of the directions received by it, the judge added.

"A bank, while acting upon a communication issued by an investigating agency, performs a limited and ministerial function. The bank is neither the investigating authority nor the adjudicatory authority. Its obligation is confined to faithfully implementing the directions lawfully issued by the competent authority. In the process of implementing such directions, the bank cannot assume unto itself powers that have not been conferred upon it by law, nor can it enlarge the scope of the directions received on the basis of its own assumptions, apprehensions or administrative considerations," the judge added.

The apprehension expressed by the bank that additional freezing directions may be received in the future cannot furnish a legal basis for freezing funds beyond the amount covered by the existing directions, Justice Govindaraj observed while directing the bank to keep the freeze to Rs 25,000 in the petitioner's account. However, liberty is reserved to the bank to further freeze the petitioner's account if any communication is received from the competent authority requesting such an action.

Outfits must remain accountable: Kharge

▶Continued from page 1

Citing the RSS annual report for 2025-26 released by Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha, the minister said Karnataka has 4,127 daily shakhas, 1,389 weekly milans and 60 monthly mandalis. The report also states the organisation conducted 2,194 Samajotsavas involving nearly 20 lakh participants and 562 route marches with 2.2 lakh uniformed participants.

Priyank, son of AICC president Mallikarjuna Kharge, said such large-scale activities involving public mobilisation, route marches and outreach programmes raise questions about legal status, permissions, funding and compliance with Indian laws.

Stressing that all organisations operating in public life must remain accountable, Priyank wrote: "In a constitutional democracy, no organisation, however old, large or influential, can remain above scrutiny."

Drawing comparisons with religious trusts, charitable bodies, NGOs, societies and companies, he noted that such entities are required to disclose their organisational structure, finances and sources of income.

Bhagwat says Hindu dharma not registered

Bhagwat said, "Within 10-15 years of RSS inception, we had to face (such scrutiny). If they don't happen, we feel something is amiss." The RSS chief said the organisation, founded during British rule, emerged through a process of public discussion and consensus.

"Hindu dharma is not registered. Many things are not registered. Those who want funds from the govt require registration. That has to be there. But the government knows the Sangh exists," he said.

"Our karyakartas live in every locality. People see them every day. Our shakhas are held in open grounds. We conduct public programmes and have a wide outreach. None of this is possible if we are secretive," Bhagwat added.

HC stays RTE extension to classes 9 & 10

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The high court granted an interim stay on the execution of a circular issued by the education department extending the benefits of Right to Education Act to classes 9 and 10 for students belonging to SC/ST category.

Justice Ashok S Kinagi passed the order after hearing a petition filed by Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools Karnataka and others.

Observing that the matter requires consideration, the judge ordered a notice to state govt while fixing July 3 as the next date of hearing.

Through the May 21 circular, the govt issued directions to all schools across the state to allow children belonging to the 'disadvantaged group' — SC/ST category — who completed class 8 in academic year 2025-26 to continue in the same institution under the Act.

Fee, if any, received by schools from a child belonging to SC/ST category, for continuing study in classes 9 and 10, will be reimbursed. The issuance of a transfer certificate of such a child having completed class 8 in 2025-26 will not come in the way of seeking readmission in the same school, the circular said.

The petitioners argued that the circular is not just in contravention of Right of Children to Free & Compulsory Education Act but is also without the authority of law.

2 workers die in rooftop kitchen as Mys restaurant catches fire

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mysuru: Two employees were killed and seven others, including the owner and manager, were injured after a major fire broke out at a restaurant in Dattagalli on Mysuru's Outer Ring Road Monday.

The deceased are Sahin, 26, the head cook from Manipur, and Prakesh, an employee from Nepal. Both were trapped inside the kitchen and could not be rescued in time, said Mysuru city police commissioner Seema Latkar. Among the injured were restaurant manager Mahadev Prasad and owner Preethm Punith.

Fire and emergency services officials rescued at least 15 people in the blaze that broke out around 3pm at Maara restaurant, reportedly due to a short circuit in decorative LED lighting. The fire quickly spread to nearby decorative materials, engulfing the premises in flames and thick smoke.

TOI

AFTERNOON BLAZE

Fire officer Ranganatha said they received a distress call around 3.15pm, following which fire engines from Saraswathipuram and Hebbal stations rushed to the spot. Rescue teams found customers on the rooftop trying to jump from the second floor. They were rescued using ladders, he said.

The building houses a liquor store on the ground floor, while the restaurant operates on the first floor and rooftop. The kitchen was on the rooftop level. Officials said customers and staff initially tried to escape through the staircase, but the flames spreading rapidly. The kitchen staff, too, were unable to escape and were trapped.

Preliminary inquiry revealed that a short circuit occurred in the electric bulbs/LED installed for decoration at a restaurant. The fire spread rapidly to nearby decorative material, causing a major fire, she stated, adding that the investigation is underway to know the exact cause of the incident. The restaurant's rooftop structure was made of metal sheets and bamboo-mat walls lined with dry grass, which accelerated the spread of flames.

During rescue operations, the restaurant manager informed officials that two staff members were missing. Firefighters later found them inside the kitchen, but both were dead by then. Their bodies were shifted to a hospital.

Pulse polio from June 28; 2L children to be targeted

Bengaluru: National Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme will be held in Bengaluru Urban district from June 28 to July 1. Chairing a meeting Monday, deputy commissioner PS Kantharaju directed officials to achieve 100% coverage.

According to district health officer Ravindranath Meti, Bengaluru Urban has 2,09,903 children aged below five years. The campaign will be carried out through 728 vaccination booths, 49 transit teams and 46 mobile teams, supported by 3,102 vaccinators and 146 supervisors. Vaccination booths will operate from 8am to 5pm on June 28, followed by door-to-door visits on June 29 and 30 in rural areas and June 29 to July 1 in urban areas. TNN

Court to hear Darshan case four days a week

Bengaluru: The trial in the sensational Renukaswamy murder case allegedly involving actor **Darshan,** his friend Pavitra Gowda and 15 other accused is set to gather pace, with a sessions court agreeing to conduct hearings four days a week.

During the proceedings Monday, special public prosecutor P Prasanna Kumar urged the court to hear the case on a day-to-day basis. "The court agreed to our plea to conduct a four-day trial in a week and, if necessary, five days," he said. TNN

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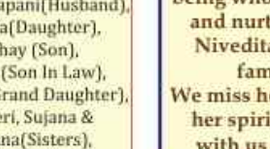
Heavenly Wedding Anniversary wishes
Ajji Thatha



We fondly remember your love, wisdom, beautiful memorable moments spent together and cherish your values and blessings, that guide us every day.
We miss you but find comfort in knowing that you watch over us! With everlasting love & gratitude,
Nidhi & Hema

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

SHASHIKALA C
Not a day passes through without your memories. You are with us forever.
With Love,
T A Chakrapani(Husband),
Supriya(Daughter),
Akshay (Son),
Madhu (Son In Law),
Aadhya (Grand Daughter),
Manjeri, Sujana & Kalpana(Sisters),
Rajesh (Brother)
All Nearest & Dearest

7TH ANNIVERSARY

Smt.A.ANASUYA
FOUNDER,
NIVEDITA SCHOOL
GAVIPURAM EXTENSION AND VASANTHAPURA.
A visionary and an amazing human being who mentored and nurtured the Nivedita School family.
We miss her a lot but her spirit will be with us forever.
Fondly remembered by:
family members, staff and students.

In Memoriam

In Loving Memory of
Wing Commander
K T Sebastian (Retd)
04-05-1954 - 15-6-2026
Cremation at Wilson Garden crematorium between 3-4 pm on 16-06-2026
Deeply mourned by
Mrs. Lata Sebastian, Anupama Sebastian, Arun Menon, Family and friends

3rd YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Smt. Kusuma Ramachandra
DOB: 20-4-1960 DOD: 16-6-2023
Death Ends a Life, Not a Relationship
Beloved Wife, Mother, and Grandmother, your love remains the heart of our family. Though we can no longer see you, we feel your presence in every prayer and every cherished memory. Your kindness, strength, and unconditional love continue to guide us each day.
We trust that you rest peacefully in God's eternal embrace, watching over those you loved.
Forever in our hearts, forever in our family, until we meet again.

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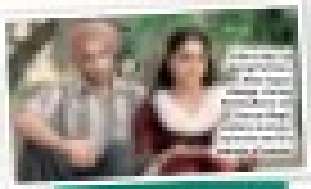
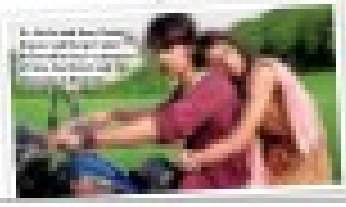
Words like romantic, philosopher, sound boring to me: Imtiaz Ali





Sanvi Sudeep slams online trolls over personal attacks & comments

Angelina and Brad's son Knox drops Pitt from his surname

Rogen shuts down possibility of working with Franco again

Govind Namdev alleges that he was misled by the Kala Hiran makers

Shri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT RULES-2026

WASTE SEGREGATION A SIMPLE HABIT.

A Legal Responsibility.

Cleaner Bengaluru · More Recycling · Zero Waste Goes to Landfills · Better Public Health · A Better Environment

Hon'ble Chief Minister **Shri D.K. Shivakumar** and Greater Bengaluru Development Minister **Shri Krishna Byre Gowda.**

Four-stream source segregation is mandatory across Bengaluru.

WET WASTE

Biodegradable waste from kitchens and gardens.

Kitchen Waste
Food Waste
Vegetable Waste
Meat Waste
Fruits Waste
Flower Waste

DRY WASTE

Recylable things like paper, plastic, metal, glass and cardboard.

Plastic
Glass
Paper
Metal, etc.

SANITARY WASTE

Hygiene and Sanitary Waste that needs safe handling.

Diapers
Sanitary Towels
Napkins
Tampons
Condoms
Incontinence Sheets

SPECIAL CARE WASTE

Household hazardous waste that needs special treatment.

Discarded Paint Drums / Pesticide Cans or Containers or Bottles / Compact Fluorescent Lamps or Bulbs / Tube Lights / Expired Medicines / Broken Mercury Thermometers / Waste Batteries / Used or Waste Needles / Syringes and Contaminated Gauge

HOW DO YOU DISPOSE WET WASTE?

Direct from bucket -zero waste!

Tied in plastic - adds to landfill

FINE ₹1,000/- for disposing in plastic bags.

All other E-waste shall be handed over separately

- Disposal of waste in plastic, biodegradable or compostable bags is not permitted.
- Waste must be transferred from user bin to vendor bin/ tempo.
- **Single Use Plastics are banned. Use cloth bags.**

1 Domestic Waste Generators

- Four-Stream Source Segregation (Wet, Dry, Sanitary & Special Care)
- Handover the waste to authorized service providers of local body.
- Prohibition of Open Disposal
- Separate disposal of bulky waste through **Dclutter** mobile application.
- Pay user fee along with property tax.

2 Enhanced Obligations for Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs)

- Mandatory Registration of the bulk waste generator entity (Residential/Commercial/ Institutional) in solid waste management portal of CPCB i.e **www.swm.cpcb.gov.in**
- Four-Stream Source Segregation (Wet, Dry, Sanitary & Special Care)
- Adopt In-Situ processing or handover the waste to notified Authorized Waste Processors only & directly pay user fee to AWP.
- File periodical returns/reports of waste management into CPCB portal.
- Strictly accountable for life cycle of the waste through Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility (EBWGR).
- Procurement of Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility (EBWGR) certificates from local authority upon fulfillment of liability.
- Dispose construction & demolition waste separately to processing facilities only.

3 Legal Enforcement and The Polluter-Pays Principle

Penalty/Fine imposition as per bye laws.

Imposition of environmental compensation

Legal proceedings as per GBGA Act 2025 & SWM Rules-2026.

REMEMBER

Segregate at Source → Store Separately → Hand Over Responsibly → Comply with the Law

BE RESPONSIBLE. BE SUSTAINABLE.

Go Green...
Save Earth, If not today, then never tomorrow.....

As enshrined in our Constitution - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

Join hands together for cleaner Bengaluru.

BIG PURGE Data-Driven Audit Found 3.9L Ineligible Beneficiaries, Saved Govt ₹1k-Cr | Graft Deep-Rooted, Reforms Will Take Time: HM

How ghosts, rich taxpayers quietly drained coffers via flagship scheme

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Bengaluru: For over 14 months, the direct benefit transfer of Rs 2,000 flashed with clockwork precision on a bank-linked mobile phone in Bengaluru Urban. The only catch? The elderly woman registered as the head of the household had passed away more than a year previously.

Because her family did not update her status on the govt's welfare portal, the automated cash flows continued uninterrupted. She was one of over 1.9 lakh ghost accounts quietly draining the treasury.

File picture

ADRENALINE RUSH: File photo of women checking their phones during the launch of the Gruha Lakshmi scheme

GRUHA LAKSHMI

A few hundred kilometres away in Mysuru, a verification team tracking digital footprints knocked on the door of another listed beneficiary. Instead of a distressed household, they found the proprietor of a flourishing retail apparel business. As a registered GST compliance payer with a commercial turnover well above the state's poverty thresholds, she was legally ineligible for benefits under the scheme. Yet, systemic inertia had kept her on the rolls for months.

A similar mismatch emerged in Belagavi, where a high-earning software professional filing regular income tax returns was flagged. Because her ancestral ration card had never been updated to reflect her family's upgraded financial standing, the state's automated systems continued to view her as an eligible, vulnerable beneficiary.

These anomalies emerged from a massive clean-up operation by the women and child development department, which began in March this year. A rigorous, database-driven audit has purged 3,89,784 ineligible beneficiaries from the govt's flagship Gruha Lakshmi scheme, plugging a fiscal leak worth Rs 1,000 crore annually.

A breakdown of the deduplication data reveals leaks were almost perfectly split between socio-economic misreporting and administrative lag. A total of 1,94,560 beneficiaries were identified as active income tax or GST payers, while 1,95,224 individuals who had passed away were still retained on the rolls.

Urban centres and highly commercialised districts accounted for the bulk of the corrections. Ten districts made up more than half of all deletions across Karnataka. Bengaluru Urban saw the highest removals (33,833 tax/GST payers; 14,038 deceased), followed closely by Belagavi with 32,282 (16,432 tax/GST payers; 15,850 deceased).

The purge has now provided the govt with a potent template to target its next major financial commitment: The Gruha Jyothi free electricity scheme. The energy subsidy programme, which guarantees up to 200 units of free power for domestic consumers, currently covers roughly 1.7 crore households and costs the state exchequer an estimated Rs 440 crore every month.

HIGHEST BENEFICIARY REMOVALS

B'luru Urban	47,871	Mandya	15,903
Belagavi	32,282	Hassan	14,899
Mysuru	20,680	Shivamogga	12,533
Tumakuru	20,037	Dharwad	12,288
DK	16,654	Kalaburagi	12,173

> We introduced these guarantee schemes to economically empower women, who are anchors of their families. Our intention is not to stop the scheme, but to ensure it reaches genuine beneficiaries. We must clamp down on fraudulent financial dealings
> **DK SHIVAKUMAR** | CM

Guarantees will continue in 2028: Siddaramaiah

Former CM Siddaramaiah said the govt's five guarantee schemes will continue even after the next assembly election in 2028 if the party returns to office.

Siddaramaiah accused BJP of opposing the welfare programmes in Karnataka while adopting similar schemes in other states, including Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, for electoral purposes. He said the administration was committed to ensuring the assistance reached eligible citizens and that public money was not diverted through misuse.

CM DK Shivakumar said the cabinet had decided to issue identity cards to recipients as part of measures to improve verification and streamline delivery. Referring to moves to remove ineligible beneficiaries, he said the exercise was intended to protect public resources. "The guarantee schemes are meant exclusively for people of Karnataka and not for residents of other states. Even Gruha Jyothi should benefit only those who have voting rights here. Why should we extend it to others?" Shivakumar said. The remarks come amid opposition criticism over the implementation of the schemes.

Education, health depts lead AI-based attendance system

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Implementation of the Kartavya, an AI and GIS-enabled attendance system for govt employees, has gained traction, with the school education and health and family welfare departments leading adoption.

The initiative was launched to improve transparency, accountability and efficiency in public administration with chief minister DK Shivakumar directing govt employees and officials to maintain 100% attendance during office hours and ensure prompt responses to public grievances.

Unlike the earlier biometric system, which allowed employees to mark attendance and leave the workplace, the new platform uses artificial intelligence and geotagging technology to verify both physical presence and location of employees.

Officials said the number of registered employees on the system has increased from around 2.5 lakh last week to 3,01,034 — a growth of more than 25% within a week. Daily attendance entries through the mobile application have also risen from 1,85,308 to 2,32,612 during the same period.

Picture for representation

The platform uses AI to verify physical presence of employees

The system currently covers 4,78,522 employees across 42 departments. School education department leads implementation, with 1,68,252 registrations out of a total workforce of 1,76,055 and more than 1,41,800 daily check-ins. The health and family welfare department ranks second with 66,969 registrations and over 54,400 daily attendance entries.

Several departments like Pre-University Education Board, AYUSH, Backward Classes welfare department, and the industrial training and employment department, have crossed the 90% registration mark.

Govt employees have welcomed the platform, saying the mobile-based attendance system has eliminated the need to stand in queues outside offices to mark biometric attendance.

Chief secretary Shalini Rajneesh said the initiative would help ensure physical availability and reliability of officials in govt offices, making public services more accessible and seamless for citizens. "By leveraging indigenous technology to strengthen governance and improve service delivery, Karnataka is emerging as a leading state in the country in digital governance and citizen-centric administrative reforms," she said.

SHORT TAKES

Congress MLAs move to resort ahead of MLC polls

Governing Congress has shifted its MLAs to a private resort on the outskirts of Bengaluru ahead of Thursday's legislative council elections, amid concerns over possible cross-voting and attempts by opposition BJP-JD(S) to influence legislators. While Congress has the numbers to comfortably win four seats, it has fielded a fifth candidate, raising the stakes and making every vote crucial. MLAs will remain there until polling day and will be taken directly to Vidhana Soudha to cast their votes. The strategy is to ensure all Congress legislators vote as directed by party brass.

Priyank backs demand for apology from Kerala VCs

Home minister Priyank Kharge backed Kerala CM VD Satheesan's demand that university vice-chancellors apologise for attending an RSS event. Priyank said VCsare responsible for shaping the future of lakhs of students and should instead attend programmes that promote learning, scientific temper and progressive thinking. Satheesan had criticised three Kerala VCs for attending the event, saying their actions diminished the dignity of their offices and Kerala's educational traditions.

Ensure adequate fertilisers: CM

At a review meeting, CM DK Shivakumar directed agriculture officials to ensure adequate supply of seeds and fertilizers for farmers. He also instructed officials to assist farmers with farming equipment. Officials were instructed to study models of other states and implement them based on the state's crop patterns. Meanwhile, former minister N Cheluvarayaswamy chided BJP for its "hypocrisy", saying: "Two years ago, when the state emphasized use of organic fertilisers, BJP said 'farmers cannot survive on organic alone'. But now PM Modi is saying organic fertilisers should be used. What will R Ashoka and BY Vijayendra say now?"

AAP exploring tie-ups for GBA polls

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is exploring an alliance with Karnataka Rashtra Samithi and other "like-minded parties" for the upcoming GBA elections, positioning itself as an alternative to BJP, Congress and JD(S). At the launch of its 'Green Agenda for Bengaluru', Prithvi Reddy, AAP national executive member, unveiled 10 promises, including rejuvenation of lakes and rajakaluves, improved waste management and water security. "These are the real issues that the three parties do not want to discuss," Reddy said. AAP state president HN Chandrashekar said the party is strengthening its cadre base ahead of the 2028 polls.

No funds, so govt is changing rules: BJP

Bengaluru: BJP state president BY Vijayendra accused the govt of reneging on its election promises by attempting to alter the eligibility criteria for its guarantee schemes. He said Congress had promised welfare benefits to all eligible citizens during the assembly election campaign without imposing additional conditions.

He claimed Gruha Lakshmi, especially, was projected as a benefit for every woman in the state and questioned the govt's recent efforts to tighten eligibility norms.

"Congress promised guarantees without any preconditions. Now, because it is finding it difficult to mobilise funds, it is blaming beneficiaries and changing the rules midway," Vijayendra alleged. TNN

Hotline soon in home dept: Priyank

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Home minister **Priyank Kharge** Monday said the department will soon launch a public hotline for citizens to directly report bribery, corruption and harassment by police personnel.

TACKLING CORRUPTION

The move comes a day after three Bengaluru-based police officers were allegedly caught red-handed by Rajasthan anti-corruption sleuths in Jaipur while taking a bribe from an accused in a dowry harassment case. The three have been suspended.

Calling the incident "unacceptable", Priyank said immediate action was taken against the officers, and an inquiry is on to find out whether higher officials were involved.

Priyank said the arrests had embarrassed the state and were particularly serious since those entrusted with protecting citizens were accused of exploiting them.

Describing corruption as a deep-rooted problem, he said reforming the system would take time but insisted that accountability must extend from the grassroots to the highest levels.

Asked about responsibility, he said he was prepared to be held accountable and openly acknowledge wrongdoing within the department.

BJP, meanwhile, attacked the govt with opposition leader R Ashoka alleging corruption within the police force had worsened. Rejecting the criticism, Priyank said corruption cases had also surfaced when BJP was at the helm.

Labhu Ram appointed

Senior IPS officer Labhu Ram was appointed special officer to home minister Priyank. An officer of IGP rank, Ram was the head of state intelligence in the previous Siddaramaiah-led govt.

9 held, FSL staff among accused in ex-soldier's murder case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Belagavi: Police cracked a sensational murder case involving former soldier Sandeep Manjaragi, 46, and arrested nine accused. The crime took place within Ghataprabha and Yamakanmardi police limits.

The accused allegedly conspired to murder Manjaragi to claim an insurance amount of Rs 2 crore. Police said the group also attempted to destroy evidence to prevent detection of poison in forensic examination reports. All nine accused have been taken into custody and further investigation is under way.

According to SP Ramarajan, on March 13, Manjaragi's bike skidded within the limits of Yamakanmardi police station. He was first admitted to a govt hospital and later shifted to Ghataprabha JG Hospital. He was declared dead on March 15, with the cause cited as a heart attack. However, suspicion arose as he hadn't suffered serious injuries in the accident. His body was sent to BIMS Hospital for postmortem, and the initial FSL report ruled out poisoning.

The death was initially portrayed as an accident, but probe later revealed it was premeditated murder. There were also allegations of attempts to divert investigation by tampering with postmortem findings and FSL report. For the first time in the state, the alleged involvement of FSL officials in a murder case has come to light, the SP said.

Among those arrested are the deceased's wife, Suma Manjaragi, her lover Pundalik Dombar and her friend Sachin Selar.

Others include FSL senior scientific officer PM Nagaraj, lab assistant Channappa Adaviswamimath, clerk Appasab Naikwadi, and assistant at the police commissioner's office, Ashok Gujanal.

HC upholds transfer of 7 acres of vet varsity land

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The high court has dismissed a PIL challenging the state govt's decision to transfer seven acres of land belonging to Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University (KVAFSU) in Hebbal for judges' quarters and a super-specialty hospital.

The petition questioned a Jan 8, 2026 govt order directing the transfer of four acres of land on the veterinary college campus, adjacent to Nyayagrama, for residential quarters for HC judges, and another three acres for the construction of a super-specialty hospital.

Dismissing the petition, a division bench of Justice DK Singh and Justice TM Nadaf held that the land transfer was a govt policy decision and found no grounds for judicial interference.

"The transfer of 4+3 acres, totalling seven acres, is a policy decision for construction of residences for HC judges and a super-specialty hospital for the general public," the bench observed. It noted that courts generally do not interfere with policy decisions unless they are arbitrary, procedurally flawed, or clearly contrary to the law.

The PIL plea was jointly filed by the Karnataka Veterinary Association, Bengaluru Veterinary College Alumni, and two other organisations. The petitioners argued that the transfer would adversely affect the veterinary college's teaching, research, and extension activities. They also expressed concerns that it could impact the institution's recognition by the Veterinary Council of India and future accreditation assessments.

However, after examining the records, the court noted that a veterinary college is required to have around 150 acres of land under the applicable regulations, while KVAFSU currently has about 278 acres. "The transfer of seven acres out of the total extent of approximately 278 acres would not, in any manner, affect the minimum land requirements prescribed under the regulations," the bench said.

The court further observed that providing fully furnished official accommodation to HC and SC judges is part of the state's responsibility and an important aspect of ensuring judicial independence. The bench took note of the fact that only 19 official residences are available to HC judges against the strength of 62 in the state, leaving several judges to live in rented accommodation.

Regarding the hospital project, the bench said allotting three acres for a super-specialty hospital would serve the larger public interest. Holding that both projects were in the larger public interest, the court rejected the petition.

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I, AMAN JAIN R/O 105, Indus Innova Apartment, Mahadevpura, Bengaluru - 560048 have changed my name to AMAN GAJENDRA JAIN vide affidavit dated 12/06/2026 J. Anand Kumar

I, MAHMAD ATIK IBRAHIMSAB KAZI alias MAHMAD ATIK KAZI alias MAHMAD ATIK alias MAHMADATIK, S/O IBRAHIM KAZI, R/O 675, 6th CROSS, 5th BLOCK, NAGAVARA, ARABIC COLLEGE, BENGALURU KARNATAKA - 560045 have changed my name to MAHMAD ATIK KAZI.

I, Rahul Gulecha (old name : Rahul Suresh Gulecha) S/o : Suresh chand gulecha have changed my name to Rahul Gulecha for all future purposes vide affidavit Dt 31/3/2026 sworn before notary Aravind Patil G.G.

I, Namrata Bhajanlal Talreja, R/O 21/2, Vishnu Nivas,Shanthinagar,Bengaluru -560027 have changed the surname of my minor son Vedant Parashar, to Vedant Talreja for all future purposes.

WE Ameen Meran and Tasmia Farheen R/O NR Neha sadan apartment, 11th main AECS layout A block, Singasandra Bengaluru 560068 have changed our minor son's name from Talha Meran to Hamza Meran for all purposes

I, Naval Agrawal, S/o. Gulabrai, R/o. BSK 2nd St., Bangalore - 70 have changes my name from Naval Kumar Gulabrai Agrawal for all future purposes

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BENGAL CM SUVENDU ADHIKARI VOWS TO ENSURE WELFARE BENEFITS REACH GENUINE BENEFICIARIES ONLY

HACK OF THE DAY — SPEED UP YOUR SLOW LAPTOP AND IMPROVE ITS PERFORMANCE

WHAT IT SOLVES: Restores speed and multitasking on a sluggish laptop, delaying an expensive replacement

WHAT TO DO: Clean software and background processes first, then upgrade memory or storage only if needed

STEPS:

1. Disable non-essential startup programs in settings
2. Uninstall unused apps and clear temporary files
3. Update the operating system and hardware drivers
4. Switch the power plan to High Performance mode
5. Scan for malware, then add SSD or RAM if needed

NOTE: Dust buildup causes overheating and CPU throttling; clean laptop vents regularly

SCAN FOR MORE HACKS

Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules.
Tip: heena.gupta@timesinternet.in

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

YouTube's biggest Beast crosses 500 million

Known for cash giveaways, survival challenges and philanthropy, **James Donaldson**'s 'MrBeast' crossed around 500mn subscribers on YouTube on June 12, the first to hit that count. Two Indian channels are also among the frontrunners

YouTube channels by no. of subscribers, Top 5

MrBeast earns around **$85 million** a year, powered by ad revenue, his candy brand, and productions, including 'Beast Games' on Amazon Prime

Source: YouTube, Media reports

This is what you can say is a story about milk of human kindness

On Reaching Class X, Assam Boy Finds In NCERT Book Details Of A Civet Cat That His Mother Nursed Along With Him

Kangkan.Kalita1
@timesofindia.com

Guwahati: A baby civet cat tumbles from a coconut tree in 2009. A village family takes him in. A young mother nurses him alongside her infant son. Years later, that unlikely tale pads quietly from Assam's countryside into an NCERT Class X textbook.

For Dharani Saikia and wife Anjali, the discovery arrived from an unexpected trail. Their younger son Gibbon Saikia returned home from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya carrying a surprise — an NCERT English workbook featuring Bhakat, the orphaned civet the family rescued and raised.

Neither parent knew their brush with wildlife folklore had found a place in classrooms across India. "There cannot be anything more satisfactory. It's bigger than any award," Dharani said. "We never thought that our Bhakat would get such a recognition."

Bhakat was found near Tetelisara village in central Assam's Nagaon district when he was barely 15 days old. Too young to fend for himself. Villagers brought him to Dharani, known locally for his love of animals. A rescue centre told him mother's milk offered Bhakat his best chance of survival. "When my husband and elder son brought Bhakat home, my husband handed him to me saying that he perhaps wanted milk," Anjali recalled. At that time, Gibbon was about 6 months old. Anjali nursed both baby and cub together. "I started to breastfeed Bhakat due to compassion and this continued for around 3 months," she said.

WILD CHILD: A file photo of Gibbon and his mother Anjali with the cat

Soon, wild instinct gave way to family routine. Bhakat slept between the two boys, tagged along with family members and roamed freely. "We never confined him," Anjali said. "He used to eat biscuits and foods like humans."

The story might have vanished into the undergrowth had documentary filmmaker Rommel Shunmugam not spent 10 days in Tetelisara documenting Bhakat's journey. After filming, he left and contact faded. Life moved on. So did memory. Then Gibbon returned home after his Class X board exams. Students at the residential school in nearby Dhing rarely interacted with parents and were not allowed mobile phones. While studying Unit 6 of Words and Expressions 2, the NCERT English workbook, Gibbon recognised a photograph of his father holding a civet cat. The chapter tells the story from the civet's perspective: "If not for him, I would not be alive today!" it says, describing how villagers rescued the fallen cub and brought him to Dharani — spelled "Dharini" in the book. Bhakat's own trail eventually went cold. About 8 months after filming, he disappeared. Family members feared neighbours upset over poultry losses may have killed him. Around the same time, the Saikias moved from flood-prone Tetelisara to Kampur town.

Then came another twist. Dharani's elder brother reported that Bhakat had returned — this time with a mate. Civets still prowl the family's ancestral village, though no one can say with certainty whether Bhakat remains among them. His fate is unknown. His legacy is not.

MP who didn't go to Matoshree meets Sena min in Delhi day later

Meeting Fuels Buzz of UBT Sena MPs Shifting To Shinde Camp

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Mumbai: A day after Shiv Sena (UBT) MP from Yavatmal-Washim **Sanjay Deshmukh** skipped physically attending a meeting of all 9 Lok Sabha MPs of the party called by its chief Uddhav Thackeray, Deshmukh met the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena's Union minister Pratap Jadhav in New Delhi. The meeting intensified speculation, which has been rife over the past few days, that a number of UBT Sena's MPs may be headed to the Shinde Sena.

It was this speculation that led Uddhav to summon all the MPs to Matoshree on Sunday. Only 4 MPs came to Matoshree, while the other 5, including Deshmukh, the party claimed, attended online. Jadhav said Sanjay Deshmukh met him on Monday for personal work related to an educational institute in their region (Jadhav is MP from Buldhana and Deshmukh from the neighbouring Yavatmal-Washim) and added that the meeting had nothing to do with any defection or split.

However, the very fact that Deshmukh, who had been unable to make it to Mumbai on Sunday, met the Shinde Sena minister in New Delhi the very next day raised eyebrows in political circles. Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut however claimed that all of the party's 9 MPs were in touch with the party and were firmly with Uddhav Thackeray. Raut said the Sena (UBT) will launch 'Operation Wolf' to target its opponents, apparently referring to the rival Sena led by deputy chief minister Shinde.

Pratap Jadhav said, "Sanjay Deshmukh has an educational institution in Yavatmal district. He wanted to get some information about his college. And since I was in New Delhi and coincidentally, he had come here in the morning, we met for tea and to talk. Due to some technical difficulties, he attended his party meeting online on Sunday." Jadhav further said, "Sanjay Deshmukh and I have been friends since the time we were in the same organization. He was district head of Yavatmal at that time, and I was the district head for Buldhana. We have worked together in the organization since then. We both belong to the same region (Vidarbha). Our friendship is good. And now, even though he has been elected as an MP from another party, he is an MP from a neighbouring constituency as the Yavatmal-Washim Lok Sabha constituency is adjacent to Buldhana district. So our friendship is good."

Of the Sena (UBT)'s 9 LS MPs, Arvind Sawant, Anil Desai, Rajabhau Waze and Sanjay Patil attended the meeting at Matoshree in person on Sunday. About the remaining 5 MPs, Raut had said on Sunday that Omprakash Raje Nimbalkar, Bhausaheb Wakchaure, Nagesh Bapurao Patil Ashtikar and Sanjay Deshmukh had attended the meeting online, while Sanjay Jadhav had spoken to Thackeray over the phone. Jadhav would be visiting Mumbai and meeting Thackeray in the next two days, Raut said on Monday.

Since the UBT Sena has 9 MPs, at least 6 MPs will have to come together to meet the two-thirds requirement which would protect them from disqualification and allow for a merger with another party.

2 arrested for series of temple thefts in K'taka

Surat: Saroli police arrested two thieves and recovered stolen ornaments and cash worth Rs 8.50 lakh, helping solve four temple theft cases reported in Karnataka.

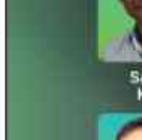
The accused allegedly targeted Jain temples and stole valuables worth Rs 16.10 lakh from areas falling under the jurisdiction of the Vidhyanagar, Basavnagar, Kote and Dharwad Town police stations. A third accomplice remains at large.

Police inspector SR Vekariya told TOI, "We received specific information that accused Bhurji Makhodiya (44) and Vijay Gundiya (27) would be passing through the Niyol check post with valuables stolen from temples. Based on the tip-off, we laid a trap and apprehended both accused. During the operation, ornaments and cash worth Rs 8.50 lakh were recovered from their possession."

He added, "During interrogation, the accused confessed to their involvement in the thefts. We have initiated the process of handing over the accused to the Karnataka Police for further investigation." TNN

Pune tourist swept away at Kumta Beach in Uttara Kannada

Karwar: A 26-year-old tourist from Pune, Jeevan Bhatrai, went missing after being swept away by rough waves at Kadle Beach in Kumta taluk of Uttara Kannada district Monday.



Bhatrai, who had been staying with friends at a private resort in Kadle for the past three days, was at the beach when the waves suddenly intensified. He was caught in the sea and swept away. His friends reportedly tried to rescue him but were unable to. On receiving information, personnel from the coast guard and the fire and emergency services department rushed to the spot and launched a search operation. The operation was hampered due to high waves. Kumta police visited the spot, registered a case and began an investigation. TNN

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Applications in the prescribed proforma are invited for the post of Vice-Chancellor, Anand Agricultural University, Anand, Gujarat, established by Government of Gujarat under Gujarat Agricultural Universities Act, 2004.

The Vice-Chancellor to be appointed should be a distinguished academician, with a minimum of ten years of experience as Professor and above in university system or ten years of experience in an equivalent or higher position in a reputed research and/or academic administrative organisation in the field of Agriculture or Allied Sciences.

The duly filled application must be submitted in hard copy to "The Registrar, Anand Agricultural University, Anand 388110, Gujarat". The last date for receipt of the application is 15th July, 2026 till 5:00 PM. The detailed application proforma can be downloaded from the university website www.aau.in

Date: 15.06.2026 Registrar

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TAMIL NADU FOREST DEPARTMENT
O/O THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MUDUMALAI TIGER RESERVE, UDHAGAI DIVISION, UDHAGAMANDALAM

Tender Notice No. 2533 / 2026 - P1 **e-Tender Notice** Dated.11.06.2026

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, e-tenders are invited for Supply of provision to the elephants in elephant camp of Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Udhagamandalam Division From 01.07.2026 to 31.12.2026.

Tender Inviting Officer : Deputy Director, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Mount Stuart Hill, Udhagamandalam - 643 001
Designation and Address : Phone No.: 0423-244098 e-mail: ddmbooty@gmail.com

Sl NO	Name of work	Value of the work (Rs in lakhs)	E.M.D. Rs.	Period of completion of work
1	Supply of provision to the elephants in elephant camp of Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Udhagamandalam Division From July 2026 to Dec 2026.	Rs.7858200.00	Rs.78582.00	185 days from agning of agreement

1) For tender document / conditions	http://tntenders.gov.in
2) Tender opens for download	11.06.2026 @ 05.30 PM
3) Last date for submitting of tender	26.06.2026 @ 06.00 PM
4) Opening of Technical Bid	29.06.2026 @ 11.30 AM
6) Opening of Financial Bid	30.06.2026 @ 06.00 PM

E-Tenders will be opened through online portal **http://tntenders.gov.in** on the date and time mentioned above at the office of the Deputy Director, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Udhagai. Any other information on this can be obtained from the office of the under signed on all working days.

Sd/-M.G. Ganesan,
DIPR / 2062 / TENDER / 2026 Deputy Director, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Udhagamandalam

KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
No. 16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru-560052. Phone: 080-22268677/78/79 Fax: 080-22268667
Email: kerc-ka@nic.in Website: https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in

No. KREC/F-32/V-27/2026-27/2133 Date:15.06.2026

NOTICE

Sub: Draft Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and general Network Access to the Intra-State Transmission and State Distribution System) Regulations, 2026.

The draft Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and general Network Access to the Intra-State Transmission and State Distribution System) Regulations, 2026, is published in the State Gazette on 11.06.2026. A copy of the draft is made available on KERC's Website **https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Interested persons may file their written objections / suggestions / views, if any, on the draft Regulations, to the Secretary, KERC, within 30 days from the date of publication in the Gazette.

Sd/- Secretary
DIPR/CP/YC/1162/2026-27 **For Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission**

KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
No. 16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru-560052. Phone: 080-22268677/78/79 Fax: 080-22268667
Email: kerc-ka@nic.in Website: https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in

No. KREC/KEDC/2026-27/2151 Date:15.06.2026

NOTICE

Sub: Draft Karnataka Electricity Distribution Code (KEDC), (First Amendment), 2026.

Ref.: KERC/KEDC/2026-27/2080, Dated: 04.06.2026

The draft Regulations on the above subject was published in the Official Gazette of Karnataka on 11.06.2026 and the same is also made available on the on KERC's Website **https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in.**

The Interested persons may file their written comments/views/ suggestions/objections if any, on the above drafts to the Secretary, KERC on or before **24.06.2026.**

Sd/- Secretary
DIPR/CP/YC/1163/2026-27 **For Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission**

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, BNCC, Bellary Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru - 560092.

No: BNCC/EE/ELE/TN/GN/02/2026-27 Date: 15-06-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, BNCC, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP / GBA / KPWD / CPWD / Railway / MES / National Highway or any Other equivalent Central / State Government Organizations for the work detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Upgradation of Street Lighting System by Replacing Damaged Poles, Panel Boards, Control Switches and Installation of New Poles at Dark Stretches of Dasarahalli Zone in Ward No. 15 to 25. **(Call-2) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 211.89, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 3,17,850/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Document may be Downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 16-06-2026.** 2) Bids must be Submitted online through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **on or before 16.00 Hours on 23-06-2026.** 3) Date of Opening of Technical Bids on **24-06-2026 at 16.00 Hours.** 4) Date of Opening of Financial Bids on **25-06-2026 at 16.00 Hours.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Electrical Division, BNCC.

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rajajinagara Division, BWCC building, #161, 1st Floor, 19th Main, 2nd Block, Near Old Navarang Bus stop, Rajajinagara, Bengaluru-10

No: EE(RNR)/KPPP/TEND/02/2026-27 Date: 15-06-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only) The Executive Engineer, Rajajinagara Division, BWCC invites standard tender documents KW4 on behalf of the Commissioner, BWCC, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with PWD/ CPWD or any state Governmental Organization for the execution of works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the works
1.	Comprehensive development of playground, ward office Building, roads and drain at Rajajinagara Constituency. Under Chief Minister Infrastructure Grants (CMIDP) (Comprising of 11 works in G.O. BWCC Sl No. 22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31 & 32) Package No.01-RNR-2025-26 **Amount put to tender (Excluding GST): ₹.1985.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount : ₹.20,00,000.00**
2.	Comprehensive developments of Roads, Drains, Footpath & Providing Street Light for selected Arterial and Sub arterial roads in Rajajinagara Constituency Under Chief Minister Infrastructure Grants (CSSIP) in Package No.02-RNR-2025-26 **Amount put to tender (Excluding GST): ₹.1412.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount : ₹.15,00,000.00**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP portal from **15-06-2026** from **5:30**pm onwards (2) Last date & time for tender Queries/Clarifications on **22-06-2026** upto **5:30** pm. (3) Pre-Bid Meeting on **24-06-2026** at **4:00** pm. (4) Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders on **02-07-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (5) Opening of Technical Bid on **04-07-2026** at **4:00** pm. (6) Opening of Financial Bid on After Approval of the technical Bid.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Rajajinagara Division, Malleshwaram Zone, BWCC

TNPL TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
262713 001445	Steaming (Non-Coking) Coal in Bulk (Imported) with 4200 GAR on Stock and Sale Basis	20.06.2026

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in tender document at our websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/2063/Tender/2026 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯ, ಬಹುಮಹಡಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಗ್ರಾಅಪಂರಾ 69 ಜಿಪಸ 2024[ಭಾ–2] ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.06.2026

ಮಹಾತ್ಮ ಗಾಂಧಿ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಕುಲಪತಿ ಹುದ್ದೆಯ ನೇಮಕಾತಿ

ಮಹಾತ್ಮ ಗಾಂಧಿ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ, 2016 ರ ಪ್ರಕರಣ 15 ರ ಉಪಬಂಧಗಳನುಸಾರ **ಮಹಾತ್ಮ ಗಾಂಧಿ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಕುಲಪತಿಯ ಹುದ್ದೆಗೆ ನೇಮಕಾತಿ** ಮಾಡಲು ಅರ್ಹತೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಶ್ರೇಷ್ಠಕೃತಿಕ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರಾಗಿರುವವರಿಂದ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಜಿ ನಮೂನೆ, ಅರ್ಹತೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಅಂತರ್ ಜಾಲ **www.rdpr.karnataka.gov.in** ಅಥವಾ ಮಹಾತ್ಮ ಗಾಂಧಿ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಅಂತರ್ ಜಾಲ **www.ksrdpru.ac.in** ಗಳಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುವ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಸ್ವ–ವಿವರಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ (Bio-data) ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಜಾಹೀರಾತು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ 15 ದಿನಗಳ ಒಳಗೆ ಅಂದರೆ 15 ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರತ ದಿನಗಳು ಮುದ್ರಾಂ(Manual) ಮೂಲಕ ಸ್ವೀಕೃತವಾಗುವಂತೆ **"ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, [ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್] ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕೊಠಡಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 308, 3ನೇ ಗೇಟ್, 3ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಬಹುಮಹಡಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 001"** ಇವರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಚಿಪಿ/1125/2026–27

ಸಹಿ/– ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ(ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್), ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ.

DIRECTORATE OF MINORITIES
Maulana Azad Bhavan, No.16C, Miller Tank Bund Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.

No: DOM/EW/COE_CA Foundation/CR-02/2026-27 Date: 16.06.2026

Announcement of Tender

Tender has been invited by the Directorate of Minorities "For the **academic year 2026-27, in the Pre-University Colleges functioning under the Directorate of Minorities, in order to provide CA Foundation coaching and other training programs.** Interested & eligible bidders/Institutes can apply through e-Procurement Portal. The schedule of tender will be as follows.

Sl. No.	Details	Date/Time
1.	Date of Tender Publication	16.06.2026
2.	Tender Amount:	Rs. 900.00 Lakhs.
3.	EMD Amount:	Rs.13,50,000/-
4.	Pre-bid meeting:	23.06.2026 at 11:30 a.m.
5.	Last date and time for submission of tender:	06.07.2026 by 5:30 p.m.
6.	Date and time of Technical bid opening:	08.07.2026 at 11:30 a.m.
7.	Date and time of Financial bid opening:	15.07.2026 at 11:30 a.m. (Tentative)
8.	Place of tender opening and contact address:	Maulana Azad Bhawan, No.16C, Miller tank Bed Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560052.
9.	Telephone No. to be contacted	080-22535902 080-22535912.

Other details can be obtained from the website of the Directorate of Minorities **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in** and e-Procurement website at: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Director
DIPR/CP/1170/MAA/2026-27 **Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru**

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell, 2nd floor, 9th Main Road, Jayanagara South 2nd block, Bengaluru -560011

No:EE/BSCC/TE&MC/TEND/07/2026-27 Date:15-06-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) Call-2

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only) The Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell (BSCC) on behalf of the Commissioner (BSCC), invites online tenders from eligible and experienced private operators for Hiring, Operation and Maintenance of Using latest Mechanical Road Sweeping Machines on Per-Kilometer Basis for sweeping of identified roads within the jurisdiction of Bengaluru South City Corporation.

Sl No.	Description
1	Road Sweeping by using latest Mechanical Road Sweeping Machines 4 Nos including Operations and Maintenance with suction of capacity not less than 5 cubic meter and required no of tipper trucks including manpower, fuel, maintenance and all consumables, for sweeping length of 160 km of roads within Bengaluru South City Corporation limits on per-kilometre payment basis (Package -1) in Zone-1 of BSCC. Rate per km. length (in ₹) and Duration: Estimated rate per Km is ₹.**699.00**/Km Path and 7 years+ 3 years extendable. EMD Amount in ₹.**1,00,000/-** through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance ₹.**42,00,000/-** by e-Bank Guarantee/ Bank Guarantee /FDR issued by Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank
2	Road Sweeping by using latest Mechanical Road Sweeping Machines 4 Nos including Operations and Maintenance with suction of capacity not less than 5 cubic meter and required no of tipper trucks including manpower, fuel, maintenance and all consumables, for sweeping length of 160 km of roads within Bengaluru South City Corporation limits on per-kilometre payment basis (Package -2) in Zone-2 of BSCC Rate per km. length (in ₹) and Duration: Estimated rate per Km is ₹.**699.00**/Km Path and 7 years+ 3 years extendable. EMD Amount in ₹.**1,00,000/-** through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance ₹.**42,00,000/-** by e-Bank Guarantee/ Bank Guarantee /FDR issued by Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank

Calendar of Events : (1) Availability of Tender Document in KPPP Portal in **16-06-2026** (2) Date and Time of Pre Bid meeting will be held on **20-06-2026** at **3:00** pm (3) Last date & time for queries (Only Through Online) on **20-06-2026** at **4:00** pm. (4) Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders is **29-06-2026** at **4:00** pm. (5) Opening Technical bid on **30-06-2026** at **4:30** pm. (6) Opening Financial bid (if possible) After the approval of technical Evalution

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell, BSCC

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in
(O/O Controller of Stores & Disposal (North), PSPCL, Ludhiana)
(Email- cosanddn2023@gmail.com, Mobile No. 96461-18761, 96461-22966)

Scrap e-Auction Notice

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) will conduct a forward e-auction on 17.06.2026 for the disposal of Damaged/Unserviceable Distribution Transformers and other materials lying at various Transformer Receiving Yards across Punjab. The e-auction will be conducted on the website portal **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/index_new.jsp**. The Detailed auction catalogue with terms and Conditions of e-auction, corrigendum and material list etc. will be available on the website **https://www.mstcindia.co.in/content/Forthcoming_e_Auctions_For_All_regions.aspx** and on **https://www.pspcl.in/e-auction-notice.aspx**. For queries related to registration, please contact at Phone No. 7229068247 or 7230022882.

C 653/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/12359

KARNATAKA SHEEP AND WOOL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.,
Kuri Bhavana, Veterinary College Campus, Hebbal, Bengaluru - 560024, Ph. No.: 23414295, 23413294

No:KSWDCL/Shepherd Kit/2026-27 Date:15-06-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

Karnataka Sheep and Wool Development Corporation Limited invites Tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for **SUPPLY OF KITS REQUIRED MIGRATORY SHEPHERDS.**

Interested tenders can participate through website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For further details, can contact office of Managing Director, Karnataka Sheep and Wool Development Corporation Limited, Hebbal, Bengaluru-560024.

Full tender documents may be viewed from the above website from 15-06-2026 onwards. Last date for uploading the document is 23-06-2026.

Sd/-
Chairman and Managing Director,
Tender Approval Committe,
Karnataka Sheep and Wool Development Corporation Limited
DIPR/CP/1168/CCL/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಹಾಸನ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹಾಸನ

HASSAN INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, HASSAN (An Autonomous Institute under the Dept of Medical Education, Government of Karnataka) SRI CHAMARAJENDRA HOSPITAL CAMPUS, HASSAN
Website: https://himshassan.karnataka.gov.in/
Phone/Fax No.08172-231699, 231599,
Email:directorhims@yahoo.com
No:HIMS/TS/OGT/4/2025-TNDR-HIMS-HSN Date:11.06.2026

Re E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement only)

Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences, Hassan, invites Re E-tender for Technical and Others Services to HIMS Hassan from the Authorized Agency in two cover bid system as per KTPP Act 1999 Sl.No. Tender Notification No. 01)HIMS/TS/OGT/4/2025-TNDR-HIMS-HSN Details Technical and Others Services Tender Uploading Date & Last Date 16.06.2026 to 30.06.2026 Estimated Cost of Tender Rs 408.88 Lakhs EMD (Rs)Rs 6.13 Lakhs Tender details can be viewed , downloaded and applied only through the e-procurement mode only website : www.kpppuat.karnataka.gov.in For further details contact/visit office during working hours.

Sd/- Chief Administrative officer, Hassan Institute of Medical Science, Hassan.
ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಹಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/237/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿ/2026–27

Govt.of Karnataka
Government General Hospital Hospet

No/ghh/Tender/834/2024-25 Date:21.04.2026

Publication of e-tender

Tender are invited through e-procurement in Two cover type for the recruitment of 10 Group "D" and 10 Non-Clinical vacancies Total 20 post in Govt. Genral Hospital, Hospet for the year 2026-27. Interested and eligible tenderers are requested to submit tender through e-procurement platform within the stipulated time.

e-Tender No.: **GHH/TENDER/834 /2025-26.** E-Procurement Tender No: **DHFWS/2025-26/SE2085 CALL-3.** Commencement of downloading of e-Tender forms from website: **http:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in Date: 11-06-2026 to 30-06-2026 evening @ 04.30 p.m.** Last Date for seeking clarification if any: **Date:30-06-2026 up to 11:00 am.** Last date for uploading of Tender in e-procurement platform: **Date:01-07-2026 evening @ 04.30 P.M Date,** Time & Venue of Opening of Tenders: **Date:02-07-2026 @ 04.30 p.m in the office of the Surgeon, Govt. General Hospital, Hospet through e-procument platform.** EMD: **Rs.1,20,000/-.** ANNUAL TENDER AMOUNT: **Rs.60,00,000/-**

Tenderers registered in eprocurement can get information about tender processing fee, EMD, tender form etc., through the Karnataka Government e-procurement portal website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Surgeon Govt. General Hospital Hospet.
DIPR/Vijayanagar/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/140

BACKWARD CLASSES WELFARE DEPARTMENT
No. 16-D, 3rd Floor, D. Devaraj Urs Bhavana, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.
Ph.: 8050770005, e-mail : bcwdhelpline@gmail.com

No. BCWD-17017/17/2026-BCWD_SCHLR-BCWD Date:15.06.2026

NOTIFICATION

Online applications are invited for "**Post-Matric Scholarship", Post-Matric Merit Scholarship for Nomadic/Semi-Nomadic Students, "Fee Reimbursement",** and **"Vidyasiri (Food and accommodation Assistance Scheme)"** for all post-matriculation courses from Backward Classes students and Category-1 Nomadic / Semi-nomadic students, offered by the Backward Classes Welfare Department for the year 2026-27. Last date of application is **31.08.2026.** Eligible students are advised to avail these facilities.

Last date for apply online:	**31.08.2026**
Website address for online Applications :	**https://ssp.postmatric.karnataka.gov.in**
For details of the programs, eligibility, documents to be submitted and government orders related to the scholarship, visit the website address:	**https://bcwd.karnataka.gov.in**
Department Helpdesk Telephone No.	**8050770004**
e-mail	**bcwdhelpline@gmail.com**
State Scholarship Scheme Helpline Email :	**postmatrichelp@karnataka.gov.in**
Telephone No.	**1902**

Sd/- Commissioner
Backward Classes Welfare Department
Bangalore
DIPR/CP/JA/1159/2026-27

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग-भरतपुर
क्रमांक: ए.सी.ई./बी.टी.पी/निविदा/2026-27/डी 523 दिनांक 10/6/26

निविदा सूचना संख्या : 05/2026-27

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से भरतपुर संभाग के अधीन जिला भरतपुर में 02 भवन निर्माण कार्य के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्रीय सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों / केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग / डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग / रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के विभिन्न सक्षम श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑन लाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

निविदा से संबंधित समस्त विवरण वेबसाईट "www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in"एवं "www.sppp.raj.nic.in" पर देखा जा सकता हैं। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट "www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in" पर रजिस्टर करवाना आवश्यक हैं।

NIB - PWD2627A1023
UBN - PWD 2627WLOB04434
UBN - PWD2627WSOB04435

Sd/-
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
सानिवि संभाग भरतपुर
DIPR/C/10331/2026

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004

S. No : JDA/EE & TA to Dir. Engg.-I/2026-27 Dated : 15.05.2026

NOTICE INVITING BID

NIB No.: EE & TA to Dir. Engg.-I/11/2026-27

Bids are invited from interested bidders for following works :-

S. No.	UBN No.	Cost of Work (Lacs)	Nature of Work	Last Date
1	JDA2627WSOB00141	326.83	Road	02.07.2026
2	JDA2627WSOB00146	500.00	Over Bridge with Escalator	06.07.2026

Other particulars of the respective bid may be visited on Procurement Portal website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in.

Executive Engineer &
TA to Dir.Engg-I
Raj.Samwad/C/26/4868

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of Executive Engineer, Special Division, West Zone-2, 19th Cross, 2nd Block, Rajajinagar Bangalore-560010.

No. EE/BWCC/SD/TEND/07/2026-27/Call-2 Date: 15.06.2026

SECTION I: INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
CALL-2

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer, Special Division, Bengaluru West City Corporation (BWCC). invites online tenders from eligible and experienced private operators for Hiring, Operation and Maintenance of Using Latest Mechanical Road Sweeping Machines on Per-Kilometre Basis for sweeping of identified roads within the jurisdiction of Bengaluru West City Corporation.

Sl. No.	Description
1.	Road Sweeping by using latest Mechanical Road Sweeping Machines 10 Nos including Operations and Maintenance with section of capacity not less than 5 cubic meter and required no of tipper trucks including manpower, fuel, maintenance and all consumables, for sweeping length of 400 km of roads within Bengaluru West City Corporation limits on per-kilometre payment basis in Zone-1&2 of BWCC. **Rate per km, length and Duration : Estimated rate per Km is Rs.699.00/Km Path and 7 years+3 years extendable. EMD : Rs.1,00,000/-through e-payment under of the following i.e., online/ RTGS/NEFT/ OTC and the balance Rs.71,00,000/- by e-Bank Guarantee/ Bank Guarantee/ FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank.**

Calendar of Events : (1) Availability of Tender Document in KPPP portal : **16.06.2026 (2)** Date and time of per-bid meeting : **20.06.2026 at 15:00 Hrs (3)** Last date & time for Queries (only through online) : **20.06.2026 at 16:00 Hrs (4)** Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders : **29.06.2026 at 16:00 Hrs (5)** Opening of Technical bid : **30.06.2026 at 16:30 Hrs (6)** Opening of Financial bid (if possible) : After the approval of Technical Evaluation.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Special Division Zone -2, BWCC

RAIL COACH FACTORY KAPURTHALA

On-line bids are invited by PCMM, RCF on behalf of President of India for following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No. & Due Date	Description	Quantity	EMD (Rs.)
1.	12261101 06.07.2026	FOOT PLATE ARRGT. FOR MEMU 3 PHASE COACHES	1003 Nos	122380
2.	12261019A 06.07.2026	SET OF FRP MODULAR TOILET FOR MEMU/TC 3-PHASE COACHES	395 Sets	2000000
3.	05261355 21.07.2026	UNDERFRAME COMPLETE FOR MEMU3 PHASE/DMC HYBRID COACHES	43 Nos	20,00,000
		UNDER FRAME COMPLETE FOR 3 PHASE MEMU/TC HYBRID COACHES	130 Nos	
4.	17251398A 03.07.2026	AUTOMATIC FIRE/SMOKE DETECTION SYSTEM FOR MEMU/ EMU/DEMU RAKE.	25 Set	2000000
5.	17261197 09.07.2026	SUPPLY OF IC DOORS FOR TRAINSET COACHES	10 Set	98,890
6.	17251268A 03.07.2026	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING, TESTING & CAMC OF AUTOMATIC FIRE/ SMOKE DETECTION SYSTEM FOR ICF NON-AC COACHES.	100 Set	10,83,240
7.	17251269A 03.07.2026	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING, TESTING & CAMC OF FIRE DETECTION CUM SUPPRESSION SYSTEM (FDSS) IN TOILET OF NON-AC COACHES	500 Set	2000000
8.	02261236 13.07.2026	ROOF MOUNTED AC PACKAGE UNIT (RMPU) FOR LHB EOG AC IN COACH SETS CONSISTING OF RAMU (WITHR 407C REFRIGERANT)		1431850.00
9.	02261237 08.07.2026	9K VA, 750V AC/415V AC/190V AC, 3-PHASE, DRY TYPE DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMER		1712390
10.	02261257 10.07.2026	MONOBLOCK PUMP	363 NOS.	190440.00
11.	05261335 08.07.2026	SET OF DOOR CUT OUT	244 Set 206 Set 74 Set	663500
12.	05261310 07.07.2026	Supply, Installation, Commission & Testing of EP Brake Equipment	225 Set 71 Set	2000000

CORRIGENDUM

1. Tender No. 05261302 due on 01.07.26 for procurement of UNDERFRAME COMPLETE FOR LHB SLRD AMRIT BHARAT COACHES. **Due date:** 01.07.26; **Regarding Drawing:** Drawing has been revised. **2. Tender No.** 05261024 due on 18.06.26 for procurement of UNDERFRAME COMPLETE FOR VB METRO DTC, MC, NDTC & TC. **Due date:** To be read as 01.07.2026 instead of 18.06.2026;

1. For details and making On-line Bids, visit Website **http://ireps.gov.in.** Drawings/specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF Website **http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in** Class IIIb- digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at website **http://www.cce.gov.in 2.** Tenders will close at 14.25 hrs. on due date and Tender will be opened at 14.30 hrs. S.No 1 to 9 opened at RCF/Kapurthala and S.No. 10 & 12 Tender will opened at Tilak Bridge New Delhi; **3.** For queries, contact IREPS Helpdesk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF helpdesk at 011-23370897

PCMM
NO. 29-S/2026-27 Dated: 15.06.2026

‘I have 21 credit cards. This is how I save ₹55,000 a year’

I don’t earn reward points by spending more. I earn them by making the same household expenses pass through the right card

Pranav Sakhadeo

I grew up in a lower middle-class household. My father was a clerk and my mother was a homemaker. We were not poor in the dramatic sense, but money was always tight. At home, there was an unspoken rule — money was not discussed in front of children. I could sense financial strain in small ways, in overheard conversations and in the mood of the house, but nobody explained what it meant or how one should plan for it.

Maybe because of that, and because of my early experience with a govt-run bank, I developed a fear of banks. Even as an adult, the thought of going to a bank made me anxious.

Today, I Own 21 Credit Cards

It sounds like a contradiction. For someone who once avoided banks, holding 21 cards may seem reckless, even absurd. But for me, credit cards are not a way to borrow money. They are tools. Used carefully, they help me reduce the cost of expenses I would have made anyway.

I’m 39 years old, a freelance translator, editor and writer. I primarily work in the Marathi publishing industry and also take up professional translation assignments. My work is meaningful to me, but I realised early that writing and translation were unlikely to make me extraordinarily wealthy. That meant I had to become smarter about managing whatever I earned.

My annual card-linked spending is around Rs 5 lakh, and I save roughly Rs 50,000-55,000 a year. This is how I do it.

System Begins With A Spreadsheet

At the beginning of every financial year, my wife Rama and I prepare a detailed expense sheet. We list groceries, vegetables, insurance, utility bills, school fees, books, uniforms, petrol, medical expenses, emergency funds, travel, eating out, planned purchases and investments. We factor in inflation.

Once this map is clear, deciding which card to use becomes almost automatic. I’m not looking for the “best credit card” or the “best cashback card” in general. My best-earning card changes by category, so I look for the card that gives me the highest real benefit on that specific expense, after charges, caps and conditions.

- Groceries may go on SBI Cashback, Jupiter Edge Plus, Amex MRCC or gift cards bought through HDFC cards.
- Utilities are paid mostly through Amazon Pay balance loaded with gift cards bought via Jupiter Edge Plus or Amex MRCC.
- Insurance may be paid through Amazon Pay gift cards, IDFC Select or AU Bank LIT.
- NPS Tier-1 is an investment, not an expense or a saving. But when I make my NPS contribution, I route it through Amex MRCC in four transactions of Rs 5,000 each because that helps me earn milestone bonus points.
- Dining out is usually through HDFC and Swiggy Dineout. Online shopping may go through SBI Cashback or Jupiter Edge Plus.

For some large predictable payments, Amazon Pay also becomes useful. It is not a credit card benefit by itself, so I do not treat Amazon Pay as the main saving. But if I have to pay insurance, property tax, utilities or a large monthly bill, I first check whether paying directly by card gives any meaningful return. Often it does not. In such cases, I may load Amazon Pay balance through the right credit-card-linked route and then make the payment from there.

Overall, I don’t ask, “Which card gives the highest return in theory?” I ask, “For this expense, which card gives me the highest real benefit after charges, caps and conditions?”

This annual planning takes us about two hours. At that point itself, we decide which card will be used for which category. After that, daily spending mostly runs on autopilot. For a regular purchase, I may spend 15 to 30 minutes checking offers. For a big purchase such as a phone, iPad, appliance or trip, I may spend one to one-and-a-half days comparing prices, bank offers, card caps and reward routes.

My Cards Are Not Random. They Sit In Different Buckets

I don’t actively use all 21 cards every month. In a normal month, I use five or six. The rest are lifetime-free cards, backup cards, RuPay or UPI cards, or cards that become useful during festive sales and special offers.

I think of the cards in buckets.

I don’t buy something simply because a card offer is available. I ask if I actually need it. I check the price history. I check if there’s a bank offer. Then I see which card gives the best benefit after caps and charges

- Daily-use cards such as HDFC Millenia, Jupiter Edge Plus, HDFC Swiggy and SBI Cashback are for groceries, online shopping, utilities, food delivery and planned purchases.
- Milestone cards such as Amex MRCC are used carefully because their value comes from hitting transaction and spending targets.
- RuPay or UPI cards such as Kiwi Yes Bank help at smaller merchants.
- Backup cards such as IDFC Select or Axis NEO help when Amex or Diners Club is not accepted, or when one bank’s server has an issue.
- Sale-period cards may remain unused for months, but during Diwali sales or large purchases, a bank-specific offer can make them valuable.

I FINE-TUNED MY PLAN TO SAVE MORE EACH YEAR

Year	Card-linked spending (₹)	Rewards or cashback (₹)
2022	4.0 lakh	30,000 (approx)
2023	4.5 lakh	32,000
2024	5.0 lakh	52,000 (approx)
2025	5.0 lakh	55,000

The cost also matters. My paid cards cost around Rs 5,500 a year before waivers. These include cards such as Amex MRCC, SBI Cashback and HDFC Millenia. But in the last three years, I have not paid the annual fee for even one card because my planned spending helped me meet the waiver conditions. I don’t count fee waivers as savings. I treat them as cost control.

This is why I don’t see 21 cards as a shocking number. I’m not using them to spend more. Each card must either save money, help with a specific payment category, improve my credit profile, or act as a backup.

I Also Keep Reviewing Cards

A credit card that’s excellent today can become average tomorrow. Banks regularly change reward structures, cashback caps, eligible categories and exclusions. That is why I review my cards whenever there is a devaluation.

- Axis Airtel was once one of my most rewarding cards, especially for utilities. But after devaluation, it no longer made sense, so I closed it.
- My HDFC Millenia was once upgraded to HDFC Privilege, but I downgraded it because the Privilege card was more travel-focused.
- I have also refused American Express Platinum Reserve upgrade offers because that card does not suit my spending pattern. This is the most important rule — choose cards according to your spending, not spending according to your cards.

This Is Why Patience Matters

I don’t buy something simply because a card offer is available. First, I ask whether I actually need it. Then I check the price history. Then I check whether there is a bank offer. Then I see which card gives the best benefit after caps and charges.

When I bought a mobile phone last year, I did not buy it from the first place where I saw a discount. During the Amazon Great Indian Festival sale, the phone was priced around Rs 42,000. With discounts and exchange offers, it was coming to about Rs 35,000. Then I checked Croma and found an instant Rs 8,000 discount on HDFC card purchases above Rs 40,000.

At Croma too, the phone price after exchange was Rs 42,000. I paid through my HDFC card, received the instant bank discount and got additional card-linked benefits. The effective price came down to around Rs 32,250.

The lesson was not that Croma is always better or Amazon is always better. The lesson was that before a large purchase, I compare offline and online prices, check bank offers and then decide. This is how the savings add up — not through one magical card, but through repeated small decisions.

I Didn’t Begin This Way

My credit-card journey started in 2011, when I was 24, with a basic SBI card. At that time, I knew nothing about rewards or cashback. I saw a card mainly as a 45-day borrowing facility.

Much later, I learnt about the ICICI Amazon Pay card because I used Amazon regularly. My application was rejected. I read that opening an ICICI savings account could improve my chances. I also realised I needed to build my CIBIL score, so I took an ICICI FD-linked credit card and used it for five or six years.

My first unsecured card was the ICICI Amazon Pay card. It was approved within 24 hours. Since I had Prime membership, it gave me 5% cashback on Amazon purchases, 2% on utilities and 1% on offline spends. That was when I started enjoying the maths.

But my real financial education came from life. When my father passed away at 54, I got tested and discovered I too was chronic hepatitis B positive. I had seen his decline closely, and the diagnosis shook me. Treatment was expensive — around Rs 3.2 lakh — and I had almost no savings. Someone helped me financially, but I had to repay the money. Rama and I had already decided to marry, so I took up extra work, including writing articles under pseudonyms, and repaid everything.

Hepatitis changed my relationship with money. I understood that money matters.

Later, as Rama and I moved into freelancing, I understood another reality: payment for work done today may come two months later. In the early days, a couple of payments got delayed and things became tight. That is when I decided that I needed buffers, planning and discipline.

That discipline is what makes the credit-card system possible. Without it, 21 cards would be dangerous.

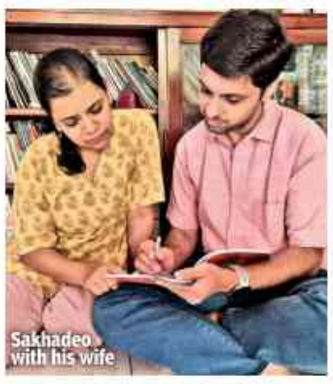
There Are Risks, Of Course

I’ve never missed a credit-card bill, never paid credit-card interest and never withdrawn cash from a card. Only once, in the early days, when my limit was low, I spent beyond the available limit and was charged an over-limit fee. That was a lesson.

I use apps like Cred and SaveSage to track due dates, billing cycles and payments. I check my credit score once a month. Having many cards also helps keep my credit utilisation low. Since the combined limit across my cards is high, my monthly spending forms a small percentage of the total available limit.

But this works only with discipline. Some people should not use credit cards at all: impulsive buyers, people who don’t track bills, people who spend future income, people who use EMIs often, people who withdraw cash, and people who shop just because an offer exists.

My advice to beginners is simple — do not start with 21 cards. First understand your income and expenses. Build your CIBIL score. Start with one or two cashback cards. If you can’t get those, take an FD-backed card. Choose cards according to your spending, not spending according to your cards.


Sakhadeo with his wife

“The annual planning takes us about two hours... After that, daily spending mostly runs on autopilot

A credit card is not income. It is not free money. It is a tool. In the wrong hands, it can become debt. In disciplined hands, it can reduce the cost of everyday life.

For me, financial planning should become routine, even a little boring. The reward should be long-term, not instant. I’m still a writer. I still work with words. For someone like me, making the most of every rupee is just part of survival.

(As told to Alka Dhupkar, Sunil Baghel and Chandrima Banerjee)

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ASK THE EXPERTS

I was an NRI for several years and returned to India in 2010. After working for four years, I took voluntary retirement in 2015 aged 46. My EPF balance remains in my account and earns interest. Can I withdraw the amount tax-free? — *Venkat K*

If you withdraw your Provident Fund balance before completing five years of continuous service, its components are taxed differently. Your own contribution is generally not taxed at withdrawal if you have claimed deduction under Section 80C earlier. However, the employer’s contribution is treated as salary income and taxed according to your income tax slab. The interest earned on your and your employer’s contribution is also taxable and added to your income under ‘Income from other sources’. Tax deducted at source (TDS) applies if the amount withdrawn is Rs 50,000 or more. The TDS rate is 10% if the Permanent Account Number (PAN) is provided. If it is not submitted, TDS is deducted at the maximum marginal rate.

Shubham Agrawal
Senior taxation adviser, TaxFile.in

My wife and I jointly own a 2-BHK flat. Our two children are settled abroad. After my death, can my wife sell the flat without an NOC from our children? Also, can she transfer it to our son via a gift deed without an NOC from our daughter? — *P C Devasia*

As the flat is jointly owned by you and your wife, it will be presumed to be owned in equal proportion unless the ownership ratio is specifically mentioned in the sale deed or agreement of sale. On your death, the managing committee of the housing society will act based on the nomination form. The committee will delete your name and include the name of your wife as a nominee. Nominees are only custodians representing the heirs and beneficiaries of the deceased owner. With a valid will, even if unregistered, probate will need to be obtained. This will require your children to sign consent affidavits stating that their father left behind a valid will, that they have no objection to its contents, and that they consent to the probate proceedings. On the basis of the probate order, your wife would need to register a transfer deed in the sub-registrar’s office and become the sole owner. As a sole owner, she can sell/gift the flat without any NOC.

Rajat Dutta, Founder & initiator, Inheritance Needs Services

Please send your queries to *toiwealthplus@timesofindia.com*, mentioning your full name and city of residence.

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India & Slovakia upgrade ties, seek reform of global bodies

Discuss Boost To Trade, Defence Cooperation

Sachin.Parashar
@timesofindia.com

Modi receives Slovakia's highest civilian honour, the Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class), from Slovak President Peter Pellegrini during a ceremony in Bratislava on Monday

New Delhi: India and Slovakia upgraded their bilateral relationship to a comprehensive partnership — exploring ways to expand cooperation in areas like defence and security, AI, space and civil nuclear energy — as PM Narendra Modi became the first Indian PM to visit the central European country since its independence in 1993.

After a bilateral meeting between Modi and his counterpart Robert Fico, the two sides announced over a dozen outcomes, including a joint working group on counterterrorism, a letter of intent for promoting defence cooperation and an MoU on labour migration. Modi is on a two-day visit to Bratislava and will return to France on Tuesday for the G7 summit.

Modi raised the issue of pending UN reforms in the meeting, saying later in his media statement that both leaders agreed global institutions must redefine themselves in keeping with the challenges and realities of the 21st century. "We will work to strengthen global efforts on this issue," said the PM.

"The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to multilateralism, with the United Nations at its core, and to a rules-based international order, while supporting comprehensive reforms of multilateral institutions, including the UN, particularly the UNSC, to make them more representative, inclusive, effective and reflective of contemporary geopolitical realities," said a joint statement, adding that India appreciated Slovakia's continued support for India's permanent membership in a reformed and expanded UNSC.

The PM underlined the significance of dialogue and diplomacy as he said both leaders agreed all disputes must be resolved through peaceful means and that India and Slovakia, a member of EU and Nato, would continue to work with their partners in that direction. With bilateral trade on an upswing, the leaders discussed early implementation of the India-EU FTA to ensure that traders, industries and startups in both countries can use it to their maximum advantage.

The leaders also condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism, and strongly condemned the Pahalgam terror attack on 22 April 2025. While agreeing to establish a joint working group on counterterrorism, they called for concerted international efforts to combat terrorism in a comprehensive and sustained manner.

The leaders also discussed the potential of Slovakia's position as a central European transport hub and India's large-scale manufacturing capabilities to boost trade and connectivity. "They also encouraged exploration of direct air connectivity between India and Slovakia to facilitate growing economic, business and people-to-people exchanges," said the joint statement. Modi and Fico backed safe and legal mobility of skilled professionals, agreeing that the MoU for labour migration will facilitate mobility and promote exchange of information between the relevant authorities of India and Slovakia.

DMK mouthpiece attacks Rahul for 'dishonesty' & 'political immaturity'

Times News Network

The mouthpiece of Stalin-headed DMK said that in state elections Congress does 'everything possible to prevent INDIA bloc partners from coming to office' but in LS polls, it seeks support of allies in the name of fighting BJP

Chennai: DMK mouthpiece 'Murasoli' Monday launched a sharp attack on Congress neta Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of "betraying" allies and alleging that his "political immaturity" and "dishonesty" were the reasons for the criticism faced by Congress at the recent INDIA bloc meeting in New Delhi.

In an editorial, Murasoli accused Congress of repeatedly undermining its alliance partners in states while seeking their support during Lok Sabha elections.

"In state after state where assembly elections are held, Congress has done everything possible to prevent INDIA bloc partners from coming to office. Yet, when parliamentary elections arrive, it seeks their support in the name of fighting BJP," the editorial said. Questioning the Congress brass's approach towards allies, the DMK mouthpiece asked, "Isn't Congress ashamed to first weaken alliance partners and then seek their support when the need arises?"

Referring to the 2026 Tamil Nadu assembly election, Murasoli said: "The acts of betrayal committed by Congress while remaining in alliance with DMK were carried out with Rahul Gandhi's blessings," the editorial alleged. The editorial came days after Rahul released the audio of his speech at the June 8 INDIA bloc meeting, in which he stressed the need for opposition unity.

According to Murasoli, Rahul was attempting to project himself as a unifying force after the party with which Congress had aligned in Tamil Nadu refused to join the INDIA bloc. The DMK mouthpiece said several INDIA bloc parties' chiefs, including SP's Akhilesh Yadav, RJD's Tejashwi Yadav and NC's Omar Abdullah, expressed dissatisfaction over Congress's handling of its allies.

"Rahul Gandhi apparently did not anticipate such criticism. At a meeting convened to discuss opposition unity against BJP, Congress itself became the principal target of criticism. The responsibility for that lies with Rahul Gandhi's political immaturity and dishonesty," the editorial said.

Responding to Rahul's remark that Congress would absorb criticism just as Lord Shiva consumed poison, the editorial said Hindu mythology speaks of Shiva consuming poison to save the world. "But who was responsible for churning the poison within the INDIA bloc?" the editorial asked.

Congress invites former members back

New Delhi: Stoking the growing public chatter over merger of breakaway outfits with Congress, AICC has expressed its readiness to accept its erstwhile members into the party fold, **reports Subodh Ghildiyal**.

AICC general secretary (organisation) and Rahul Gandhi confidant K C Venugopal told **TOI**, "Everybody who believes in the Congress ideology can come back. There is no issue." He said such mergers and homecomings will only strengthen the fight against "BJP-fascist forces".

Venugopal, however, clarified that presently there are no such merger proposals under consideration of AICC. "We are hearing all these speculations from the media," he claimed. The remark sought to distance the party from reports that Trinamool Congress of Mamata Banerjee is in talks for "reunification".

Trip says much about Delhi's reading of a fractured Europe and Slovakia

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Modi and Slovak President Peter Pellegrini witness a yoga demonstration

New Delhi: The country Narendra Modi flew into on Sunday is one of European Union's more restless members — a Nato state whose prime minister has courted Vladimir Putin, balked at arming Ukraine and kept a wary eye on Washington's tariffs. That Modi chose this moment to visit Slovakia, becoming the first Indian prime minister to do so in 33 years, says as much about New Delhi's reading of a fractured Europe as it does about Bratislava. By deepening ties with a member that is itself hedging between West and East, India gains a foothold in precisely the kind of EU economy others are approaching with caution.

The welcome was effusive — a rendition of Vande Mataram by Lucnica Ensemble and a traditional bread-and-salt ceremony. On Monday, Modi held delegation-level and one-on-one talks with Slovak PM Robert Fico before calling on President Peter Pellegrini. The pivotal outcome was a decision to elevate the relationship to a Comprehensive Partnership — the clearest signal yet that both capitals see this as a long-term engagement.

"This is indeed a very special moment for the India-Slovakia friendship," Modi said, calling Fico "a true friend of India." The rapport showed in lighter registers too: posting on Instagram, Modi noted that "Prime Minister Fico wore a jacket I had gifted him. And, coincidentally our jacket colours matched today!"

The numbers explain the warmth. Two-way trade, which first crossed $1 billion in 2024, reached $1.8 billion last year, with Indian exports of roughly $1.52 billion dwarfing imports of $284 million. With India-EU free trade agreement (FTA) now finalised, officials see Slovakia as a convenient doorway to European manufacturing and supply chains. Modi said the FTA would "add momentum" to the partnership, with both sides expecting it to unlock trade, investment and jobs, "particularly for the youth."

Defence is where the script has flipped. A bilateral pact has been in place since 1995, but the traffic now runs both ways: Indian firms have signed up for joint manufacture of artillery and armoured systems, and Slovak gunmaker Grand Power is setting up a subsidiary near Coimbatore — a buyer turning supplier. Industry ties already run deeper than headlines suggest; a Slovak-Indian venture opened India's first private forged rail-wheel plant in Odisha last year.

ED quizzes Abhishek for 11 hrs in school jobs scam case

Kolkata: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Monday interrogated Trinamool MP Abhishek Banerjee for 11 hours in connection with the alleged cash-for-school-jobs scam, reports **Rohit Khanna**.

Abhishek was earlier questioned in the case in 2023.

Addressing reporters after coming out of the ED office, he said, "Those who have been arrested got bail now. We tried our best to give jobs to the deserving candidates. We wanted eligible and deserving candidates should be added through a transparent process." ED has come across "proceeds of the crime" generated from the cash-for-jobs scam and transferred to Leaps & Bounds and companies linked to it. The name of Leaps & Bounds surfaced when ED started looking into the accounts of SD Consultancy — a company linked to Sujay Krishna Bhadra — an employee of Leaps & Bounds. Bhadra later became a director of the company.

While Abhishek, who was earlier a director of Leaps & Bounds Pvt Ltd, had resigned from the post, his parents continued to hold the post of the directors. Investigators have reasons to believe three transactions of Rs 48.6 lakh, Rs 45.3 lakh and Rs 1 lakh made between Feb 2020 and Jan 2021 were linked to Leaps & Bounds. SD Consultancy paid Rs 95 lakh to Leaps and Bounds.

ED officials asked Abhishek if he was aware of any consultancy fee paid to Leaps & Bounds Pvt Ltd.

'Pushpa' paraded again in Nadda attack case

Arrested TMC strongman from Falta, Jahangir Khan aka 'Pushpa', was paraded through the streets for a second consecutive day on Sunday, as Diamond Harbour police reopened a six-year-old case of assault on J P Nadda, then national president of BJP, for fresh investigation. A video of a visibly subdued Khan walking through the streets of Falta, seeking forgiveness from onlookers with folded hands and occasionally holding his ears, went viral on Monday. TNN

NCPI skipped 2024 LS and 2026 Bengal assembly elections

▶Continued from P1

Initially, it came as a shock because I was not consulted. But it is good news that our party is growing," Dey said.

Registered with the EC as a "registered unrecognised political party" on Jan 20, 2023, NCPI had barely registered on political radar. Though based in Bengal, it made its electoral debut in Tripura in 2023, fielding seven candidates. Four nominations were cancelled. The remaining three together secured 822 votes.

NCPI's headquarters at Hatgachha village, about 30km from Esplanade in central Kolkata, bears few signs of a party that now sits at the centre of a political storm. A boundary wall carries the name of NGO Jago Biswa. NCPI's presence is marked only by a banner hanging from a first-floor balcony. The premises are linked to Shewly Kundu and husband Uttiya Kundu, identified in party literature as president and vice-president.

Shewly said Monday she had recently resigned from her NCPI post. Asked about Uttiya, who was reportedly in Delhi and played a role in merger talks, she said: "He is still outside the state." She insisted the couple had always been "NDA sympathisers". However, Mintu Bera, who contested 2023 polls on an NCPI ticket, said the party's aim at the time was to dent BJP's vote share. "We fielded 11 candidates. All of us lost. But we ran an anti-BJP campaign," he said. NCPI skipped both 2024 Lok Sabha and 2026 Bengal assembly polls.

Rebels 'tipped for ministerial berths'

MPs of NCPI — the youngest bloc in LS — are being tipped for berths in the Union Council of Ministers a day after 20 MPs rebelled against Trinamool Congress and joined the party, report **Tamaghna Banerjee & Dipawali Mitra.** MPs Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Sharmila Sarkar were said to be among those being considered for junior minister positions. Both MPs, however, said they didn't have any such information. Rebel faction neta in LS Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar has, meanwhile, written to Speaker Om Birla seeking the expulsion of Mamata loyalist Kalyan Banerjee on grounds of "repeated verbal abuse, misogynistic comments and misconduct" within the Lok Sabha premises.

Rebel MP's MLA wife backs Didi

A day after MP Sudip Bandyopadhyay joined NCPI, his wife, Nayna Bandyopadhyay, a five-time MLA, Monday said that she would stick with party chief Mamata Banerjee "till her last breath", reports **Dipawali Mitra.** "Sudip couldn't convince me. He has left (Trinamool); that's his business. He will figure that out. He did not listen to me. I had referred to Mamata Banerjee as 'Maa Durga'. I have told Didi I am not going anywhere. If Didi turns me away, I will wander the streets like an orphan," she said. Sudip said in Delhi Sunday he couldn't convince his wife to join NCPI. "She continues to be the deputy leader in the assembly," Sudip added.

INDIA DIGEST

No anticipatory bail for Majithia

An Amritsar court Monday granted anticipatory bail to Shiromani Akali Dal's Bikram Singh Majithia in connection with the Majitha police station confrontation case. Majithia was accused of tearing documents inside the police station and attempting to free his supporter Jobanpreet Singh. The FIR was registered on May 31, leading to continuous raids to arrest him. The FIR against Majithia and others was registered on May 31

Unemployment rises marginally in May

Unemployment rate (UR) in May stood at 5.5%, compared with 5.6% last year, the latest periodic labour force survey (PLFS) monthly bulletin released Monday showed. The sequential increase 5.2% was mainly on account of rise in joblessness in rural areas as UR rose to 5.1% from 4.6% in April, although in urban areas, it dipped to 6.4% during the month from 6.6% in the previous month. Unemployment among men in rural areas rose for the fourth straight month to 5.2% in May from 4.7% in April, while among women it went up to 4.7% from 4.4%.

No bail for ex-RCom director in loan case

A Delhi court has taken cognisance of ED's chargesheet against former Reliance Communications (RCom) director Punit Narendra Garg for alleged diversion and laundering of over Rs 40,000 crore loan funds through overseas subsidiaries and rejected Garg's bail plea. ED had submitted proceeds of crime were routed through foreign subsidiaries and offshore entities.

Hyd road named after Trump to open on June 23

Hyderabad: While the US-Iran war ebbs and flows between talk of peace treaties and renewed hostilities, Hyderabad is preparing to unveil Donald Trump Avenue, a road named after the US president. Scheduled for inauguration on June 23, the avenue runs alongside the US consulate in the city's financial district, reports **Koride Mahesh**.

CM A Revanth Reddy had first floated the idea in Dec 2025, but the idea was kept on hold amid the tariff war and later the war in West Asia. The event renaming the stretch will be attended by US ambassador to India Sergio Gor and is expected to feature diplomatic festivities leading to America's Independence Day on July 4.

A senior official said: "Telangana govt has taken a decision to name more roads after tech giants like Google and Microsoft with an aim to position Telangana as a symbol of innovation-driven India."

Akal Takht declares CM Mann anti-Guru, AAP rejects charge

Yudhvir Rana | TNN

Amritsar/Chandigarh: The five Sikh high priests have ordered all Sikh MLAs and members of the Punjab cabinet who signed the Jagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Act, 2026, barring chief minister **Bhagwant Mann**, to appear before Akal Takht on June 29.

They have also sought written explanations from non-Sikh ministers of Punjab govt. The officiating Jathedar of Akal Takht, Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargajj, on Monday declared Mann as "Guru Dokhi" (anti-Guru) and "Khalsa Panth Virodhi" (anti-Khalsa Panth) after a meeting of the Sikh high priests at Akal Takht Monday and directed the Sikh Panth "not to have any connection with Mann".

According to Giani Gargajj, the decision came after Akal Takht received 'forensic reports' from two labs that the alleged sacrilege videos purportedly showing Mann were neither manipulated nor generated using AI.

AAP Punjab state media in charge Baltej Pannu held a press meet on Monday to contest it. "The so-called forensic report being used to target the CM has failed to establish even the identity of the person seen in the video," he said, adding: "After losing the trust of people and facing repeated electoral defeats, the Badal family and Shiromani Akali Dal have dragged revered Sikh institutions into their political battle in a desperate bid to regain relevance."

Earlier in the day, Giani Gargajj said Akal Takht had summoned Mann after receiving a video featuring a person purportedly resembling the CM indulging in 'objectionable acts'. Mann appeared before Akal Takht on Jan 15 and maintained that the video was fake, upon which Akal Takht asked him to suggest two forensic labs where the video's authenticity could be verified. On Jan 27, the Akal Takht secretariat wrote to Mann and Punjab govt seeking a response, but no reply has been received so far, he said.

The officiating Jathedar said that, in the absence of any response, the Akal Takht secretariat identified two govt-approved forensic labs for examination of the video. According to the reports, the video was found to be original. Following the findings, the five Sikh high priests, who decided to take action, said Giani Gargajj. "Accordingly, on June 15, the Sikh high priests declared him 'Guru Dokhi' and 'Khalsa Panth Virodhi'," he said.

'Dancing girl' back in original form as NCERT withdraws altered edition

Times News Network

New Delhi: In a swift move, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) decided to restore the original version of the iconic "Dancing Girl" of Mohenjo-daro in its new class IX textbook with immediate effect on the digital books available online as well as in the subsequent printed books. According to sources, the decision was taken after the review by the department of arts education and the textbook development committee Monday.

The image of the bronze figurine — one of the most recognisable artefacts of the Indus Valley Civilisation — appears in a fresh avatar in NCERT's new class IX arts education textbook, with the statuette's bare torso covered up. The matter of the alteration of the "Dancing Girl" was referred to the group concerned Monday morning, following media reports the same day.

The image appears in the opening chapter, "History of Arts", of Madhurima, NCERT's new class IX arts education textbook. In the version carried in the textbook, the torso of the figurine appears visually altered compared to photographs of the original artefact, with shading used across the upper body that obscures anatomical details visible in the sculpture.

"The matter was referred to the Department of Arts Education and the textbook committee for review. Post review it was decided to restore the earlier image" said an NCERT official.

The change was made despite reservations raised during discussions on the presentation of the famous figurine. No NCERT functionary came on record when contacted on the specifics of who cleared the change or when.

Michel Danino, who headed the textbook development committee for NCERT's new class VI social science books, said he had earlier been told that the Dancing Girl figurine was considered "not age-appropriate".

SC notice to Centre, Punjab over failure to implement RTE

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday sought responses from Centre and Punjab govt to a PIL alleging that the AAP-governed state has failed to implement the constitutional guarantee of free and compulsory education to every child from economically weaker and marginalised sections of society

Though RTE and RTI were among the main planks on which AAP acquired political salience at national level, the PIL by Jagmohan Singh Raju said RTE Act's mandate for a quota of 25% for children belonging to weaker and disadvantaged sections of society in schools remained largely unimplemented in state.

"Non-compliance with RTE Act by Punjab is neither recent nor incidental but has persisted since its enactment in 2009. Over the years, reported appeals have been issued by Union govt to secure compliance, and recommendations have also been made by National Commission for Scheduled Castes," the petitioner said. TNN

'AI 171 crash exposes payout void for victims on ground'

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SAME TRAGEDY BUT NOT QUITE SAME RELIEF

Mumbai: When Air India flight AI 171 crashed into the B J Medical College hostel in Ahmedabad on June 12, 2025, it killed 241 of the 242 people aboard and 19 more on the ground, among them were four medical students having lunch in their hostel mess. Though all the 260 people killed were victims of the same accident, under Indian compensation laws, they were not quite the same kind of victims, say experts.

"Through the Carriage by Air Act and the Montreal Convention regime, passengers and their families benefit from a structured system of liability, insurance, and compensation. However, no comparable statutory framework exists for persons on the ground who become victims of aircraft accidents," said Safety Matters Foundation (SMF), an aviation safety nonprofit, in a letter to the aviation ministry Sunday.

"Unlike passengers, compensation for ground victims presently depends largely upon a combination of tort litigation, insurance claims, settlements and ex gratia payments," the letter said.

The absence of a dedicated statutory mechanism creates uncertainty over liability, quantum of compensation, timelines for relief, claims procedures and access to justice. It requested govt to establish a statutory 'Ground Victims Compensation Framework', introduce strict liability provisions so victims only need to establish the injury, death or property damage resulted from an aircraft accident, provide mandatory interim compensation within a prescribed period, prescribe minimum compensation standards, etc.

India's Aircraft (Investigation of Accidents and Incidents) Rules explicitly include people on the ground injured through contact with an aircraft within the definition of an accident. Along with passengers, ground victims are counted in the total tally of the injured or dead, but no legal document exists that recognises their right to compensation. In the days following the AI 171 accident, the Gujarat govt acknowledged it had not yet decided on compensation for those killed or seriously injured (67) on the ground. Later, Air India released interim payment of Rs 25 lakh to ground victims' families alongside passengers'.

But the amount paid to ground victims' families was more like ex gratia payment and not legal entitlement.

Internationally too, the problem is unresolved. The 1952 Rome Convention established a system for compensating people on the ground who suffer damage from a foreign aircraft, but it did not gain widespread acceptance. India signed the convention but did not ratify it. Following the 9/11 terror attacks, the UN's International Civil Aviation Organisation developed two updated third-party liability conventions adopted in Montreal in 2009. However, neither treaty has received enough ratifications to enter into force. But some countries have legal frameworks in place, such as Switzerland's Aviation Act, which imposes unlimited strict liability on any aircraft operator, or Belgium, which incorporated the Rome Convention into national law.

11 ways the NEET-UG re-test is being secured

A tight security system, including biometric checks, GPS tracking, AI monitoring and central forces, has been put in place with lakhs of students set to retake the exam on Sunday

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When lakhs of medical aspirants sit for the NEET-UG re-test this Sunday, June 21, they will walk into an exam system being guarded far beyond the usual frisking and identity checks. After the May 3 exam was scrapped following a multi-state paper leak, the govt and the National Testing Agency (NTA) are trying to ensure that the re-test does not become another embarrassment — and have built what officials describe as the most tightly secured NEET exercise yet.

1 Securing Question-Setting Process

The first layer begins before the paper is printed. Question setters are being kept in self-contained 'insulated' rooms without internet or phone access. Rough work is destroyed, and papers are stored in encrypted form on a master computer. Multiple sets have been prepared, including backups. The usual A/B/C/D labels have been replaced with longer, non-standard codes, while answer options are shuffled across versions so that even if a fragment leaks, it cannot easily be matched to a specific paper.

2 Monitored Printing & Traceable Papers

Printing is being carried out under tight supervision, with electronic devices barred and CCTV coverage retained. Each paper is individually marked to allow investigators to trace the source if any leak occurs.

3 Airlift, Escort & GPS-Tracked Transport

The second, and perhaps most sensitive, layer concerns transport and storage — the stage that came under sharp scrutiny after earlier leaks. For the re-test, question paper packets are being moved from hub cities under a reinforced security chain. The Indian Air Force has been roped in to airlift consignments, while CRPF and CISF personnel are providing a two-tier escort for both the outbound papers and the return of OMR answer sheets. The chain of custody is documented at each stage, consignments are GPS-tracked, and packets are received only by designated custodian banks.

4 Controlled Opening Of Sealed Trunks

On exam day, sealed trunks may be opened only in a designated strong room, about 45 minutes before the test, in the presence of district administration and police officials.

5 Biometric And Facial Verification

At the centres, candidates will go through Aadhaar-based biometric verification, with facial recognition and live photography being used to prevent impersonation and proxy candidates.

6 Multi-Layer Frisking And Device Ban

Frisking too has been tightened. Candidates will pass through multiple layers of checks, including metal detectors, with separate arrangements for male and female candidates. Phones, smartwatches, calculators and other electronic devices remain banned. Mobile signal jammers are being deployed to block communication from inside or around exam halls.

7 CCTV And AI Surveillance

During the exam, surveillance will run on multiple tracks. CCTV feeds from centres will be monitored at several levels — by NTA control rooms, state and district administrations, the ministry of education and central institutions. AI-based systems are expected to flag suspicious behaviour such as candidates communicating with each other or using hidden notes. A central command centre will watch feeds from across the country, while flying squads and observers conduct physical inspections in real time.

8 Longer Session, No Early Exit

To absorb the additional checks, the exam session has been stretched to 195 minutes. Candidates will not be allowed to leave early, reducing the risk of information flowing out while the test is still under way elsewhere.

On May 3, the 2026 medical entrance exam was cancelled by NTA after allegations of a paper leak surfaced

Students line up to enter a NEET exam centre this year

TOI Explains

IAF, CRPF, CISF TO BE DEPLOYED

- **22.7 lakh+** aspirants registered (original May 3 exam)
- **~5,432** exam centres across 551 cities, plus 14 abroad
- **5 lakh+** security personnel
- **6,000+** observers and **674** city coordinators
- Two-tier CRPF + CISF escort, with IAF airlift of paper packets
- 4-layer CCTV with AI monitoring; mobile jammers at centres
- **195 minutes** exam window (up from 180) to absorb the extra checks

9 Secured Return Of Answer Sheets

After the exam, the answer sheets will move back through the same secured chain. OMR sheets will be sealed, escorted by CRPF and CISF personnel, and kept under continued CCTV watch until they are packed and dispatched for evaluation.

10 Multi-Level Oversight

Monitoring runs from the Prime Minister's Office and the cabinet secretary through the ministry of education, the NTA, state-level committees and district administrations. District magistrates are coordinating central security and police deployment. More than five lakh personnel — including police, home guards, district staff and paramilitary forces — are being mobilised, along with over 6,000 observers and 674 city coordinators. The NTA has also introduced training and certification for centre superintendents and invigilators to standardise conduct.

11 Stronger Legal Deterrence

The legal deterrent comes from the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024. Leaking or possessing question papers, impersonation and tampering with exam networks are cognisable, non-bailable and non-compoundable offences. General offences carry 3-5 years in prison. Service providers can face fines up to Rs 1 crore and debarment for four years. Organised cheating can attract five to 10 years in jail, fines of at least Rs 1 crore and property forfeiture.

The current overhaul draws on the recommendations of the K Radhakrishnan Committee, set up after the 2024 NEET controversy, as well as emergency measures placed by the NTA before the Supreme Court. The panel had recommended a deeper role for state and district administrations, stronger identity verification, sealed-centre protocols and a gradual shift towards computer-based testing.

Candidates report login failures and other glitches

▸Continued from page 1

Our teams have been working towards resolving all these issues," the agency said, adding that all candidates would receive their admit cards. Candidates took to X and other platforms to report login failures, slow-loading pages and difficulties accessing hall tickets. Several posts also sought clarification on refunds and bank account details submitted on the portal.

NTA in a separate advisory said that all refunds would be credited directly to bank accounts or refund details provided by candidates on the official portal. It urged candidates to verify their details and warned them against fraudulent calls, messages and links claiming to speed up or verify refunds. The agency said it never asks for OTPs, passwords, UPI PINs or payments to process refunds. Candidates who entered incorrect bank details will be given another opportunity after the examination to make corrections.

The warning gained significance after Ahmedabad cyber crime arrested Rajasthan residents Sumer Singh and Akash Meena, who allegedly operated Telegram channels promising question papers and admissions in exchange for money. Investigators said no confidential NEET material or question papers were recovered and the claims were entirely fraudulent. Police also found around 44 cybercrime-linked websites and multiple Telegram groups allegedly operated by the accused, with transactions exceeding Rs 1.5 crore passing through their accounts over the past year.

The cyber crime branch has appealed to students and parents not to trust Telegram channels, social media posts or advertisements promising question papers, result manipulation or guaranteed admissions. It advised candidates to rely only on official sources.

Separately, NTA has launched a dedicated reporting platform where candidates can report suspicious websites and social media accounts.

5 held for assault on CJP founder in Jaipur

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Jaipur: Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke was slapped by a group of youths during a protest at Shaheed Smarak here Monday, triggering a scuffle between the youths and CJP supporters. Police have arrested five people for the incident and launched an investigation.

According to DCP South Rajarshi Raj Varma, all five were arrested under Section 170 of BNSS (arrest to prevent commission of cognisable offence). The protest, organised by CJP over the alleged NEET paper leak, flaws in the education system, unemployment and other youth-related issues, drew hundreds of participants to Shaheed Smarak.

According to eyewitnesses, Dipke was being carried on the shoulders of supporters as he entered the protest venue when some youths from the crowd slapped him repeatedly. CJP supporters immediately caught hold of some of the accused and assaulted them before police intervened and brought the situation under control.

Abhijeet Dipke was slapped by a group of youths during a protest at Shaheed Smarak on Monday

One of the arrested persons, Rakesh Gurjar, claimed he was a nationalist and alleged that Dipke was misleading the public. "They are people with a jihadist mindset," he told reporters.

After the demonstration, CJP supporters formed a security cordon around Dipke and escorted him to his vehicle while raising slogans of "Vande Mataram" and "Bharat Mata Ki Jai." Later, Dipke said on X, "Physical attacks are a sign of fear and cowardice. I am a follower of Gandhi and Ambedkar, and I will keep fighting this battle with peace and love."

'Final touches' to US trade deal next wk'

New Delhi: US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer will hold talks with commerce & industry minister **Piyush Goyal** next week to give "final touches" to the first tranche of the bilateral trade deal, a top official said Monday.

Greer is likely to land in the Capital next Monday with talks scheduled for June 23 and 24, commerce secretary Rajesh Agrawal told reporters. "Our expectation is that discussions will be centered around giving final touches to the framework deal, which has been discussed during the visit of their (US) delegation... and also on the larger BTA (bilateral trade agreement), which has also been under discussions," he said. TNN

More steps to attract foreign capital: Nirmala

New Delhi: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday indicated that there will be more steps to attract foreign capital into the Indian market.

Sitharaman said measures taken by govt to exempt withholding tax on interest and capital gains tax made by foreign investors in G-secs will be the first step towards drawing foreign capital back. "Certainly, that's not the end of story, there will be more. We recognise we need more foreign capital to come in," she said.

The RBI on June 5 had allowed banks to access the RBI's swap facility for Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) (FCNR(B)), deposits with maturities ranging from 3-5 years till Sept 30. PTI

Kochi airport mulls CSR payouts for damaged houses

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Kochi: Cochin International Airport Ltd (Cial) is exploring compensation from its CSR funds after three houses near the airport suffered damage from low-flying aircraft over the past one year.

Latest case surfaced Sunday when roof tiles crashed down at KA Simon's house in Nedumbassery, a northern suburb of Kerala's Kochi. Airport authorities said after a preliminary inquiry that there was prima facie ground to believe an aircraft flying low may have triggered the damage.

DGCA's air safety wing will seek a report from its Kochi officials. "We haven't got any information regarding it so far," an official in New Delhi said.

Though Cial has no legal obligation to compensate homeowners for damage linked to aircraft operations, airport authorities are considering relief on humanitarian grounds. "As cases of aircraft flying low causing damages to houses are being reported repeatedly, we will conduct a detailed inquiry into it. Though we don't have any direct obligation, we will consider ways to give compensation to the owners," a source said.

"We will have to design a policy if the proposal is approved," the source said.

How this dead star's final explosion could help us map universe

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Benglauru: In Dec 2023, a star roughly 90 million light-years away died in one of the most spectacular ways possible. It exploded. The blast, briefly outshining the entire galaxy it lived in, has now given scientists in India something surprisingly useful: a better ruler for measuring the cosmos.

The explosion, catalogued as "SN 2023zcu", belongs to a class of stellar deaths called supernovae. When a massive star — this one about 12-15 times the size of our Sun — runs out of fuel after billions of years, its core collapses in an instant, and the outer layers are blasted into space with the energy of a trillion suns. For a few months, the dying star glows brighter than anything else around it.

Researchers at India's Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), along with international collaborators, spent months training telescopes on this particular explosion, watching it brighten, plateau, and slowly fade. Their findings, published in The Astrophysical Journal, go beyond documenting a cosmic spectacle.

What made this discovery especially valuable was timing. The supernova was spotted within a day of the explosion itself, a rare stroke of luck that allowed scientists to observe it almost from the very start, capturing details that are normally missed. Most supernovae are only found days or weeks after the fact, by which point crucial early data has already been lost.

The host galaxy, "NGC 2139", has also proven to be something of a repeat offender: this is the third supernova recorded in it. The previous two exploded in 1995 and 2022. Three explosions in the same galaxy within three decades is unusual, and gives astronomers a rich body of data to work with.

By comparing how large the explosion actually was with how bright it appeared from Earth, the team calculated precisely how far away it was: about 27.8-29.8 megaparsecs, or roughly 90 million light-years. The technique works a bit like estimating how far away a bonfire is by comparing its actual size to how small it looks from a distance.

Getting distances right in space is notoriously tricky, and critically important. Astronomers use them to piece together how fast the universe is expanding and, ultimately, how old and how big it is. This type of supernova is particularly useful for that calculation because its hydrogen-rich outer layers create a stable, predictable glow during the plateau phase, making the measurements unusually reliable.

BIHAR STATE MILK CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION LTD.
H.O.:- DAIRY DEVELOPMENT COMPLEX, P.O. - BIHAR VETERINARY COLLEGE, PATNA-800014(BIHAR)
E-Mail: comfed.ops14@gmail.com, Website: www.sudha.coop

COMFED: Ops:155:3059 Date: 12/06/2026

AMENDMENT NOTICE

Time extension of NIT No. COMFED: OPS: 155:2740 dt 25.05.2026 for the collection, recycling, and environmentally sound disposal of approximately 4030 MT of all categories of Plastic waste i.e. LDPE/LLDPE/HDPE/SLP plastic waste (including milk poly pouches, plastic cups, PET bottles, etc.) generated at Milk parlour and other identified sources, in compliance with Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) requirements under Plastic Waste Management. Rule 2016, and as amended up to 2022, is done and uploaded on our website: www.sudha.coop." as below:

S. No	Particulars	As per NIT NO COMFED: OPS: 155: 2740 dt 25/05/2026	Amended Dates
1	Last date and time of bid submission	12.06.2026 up to 5.00 p.m	22.06.2026 up to 5.00 p.m
2	Technical opening date and time	15.06.2026 at 3.30 p.m	23.06.2026 at 3.30 p.m.
3	Financial Bid opening date and time	Shall be intimated later after evaluation of technical bid	Shall be intimated later after evaluation of technical bid

Other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged.

Managing Director

Andhra Pradesh Medical Services & Infrastructure Development Corporation
APMSIDC, Plot No.9, Survey No.49, IT Park, Mangalagiri, Guntur District-522 503

Drugs Wing-Tender No:190/APMSIDC/Medicine Wing/2026-27
Tender is invited through e-procurement platform (online) for **T190:**
Empanelment of analytical testing laboratories for the test and analysis of medicines, surgical & Consumables.
For complete details, please visit Website:
https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in

APMSIDC will reserve the right to cancel the tender at any time without assigning any reasons.

DIPR No:5169PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22 Dt:15/06/2026 Sd/-MANAGING DIRECTOR

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
(See Section 84 BNSS)

CBI VS. SHIVENDRA TOMAR & ORS.
RC No RC/216/2018/A/2017/AC-1/CBI/NEW DELHI.
Under Sections 120-B r/w Sec 420 & Section 13(2) r/w 13(1)(d) of PC Act, 1988 BRANCH-CBI, AC-1, NEW DELHI.

WHEREAS complaint has been made before me that **PALAMDAI VISWANATH SRINIVAS @ P V SRINIVAS, S/O SH P R VISWANATHAN, R/O 138, 15TH CROSS, 19TH MAIN, 1ST BLOCK RAJAJI NAGAR, BENGALURU, (KARNATAKA)-560010,**
ALSO AT- 38A, NAL SOCIETY, TAVARAKERE VILLAGE, BENGALORE (KARNATAKA)-560010,
ALSO AT- UNIT NO.2, FIRST FLOOR, MONARCH HIMALAYA NO. 45, K. G CIRCLE, BENGALORE, KARNATAKA,
ALSO AT- MONARCH NEWERA STAY INN PVT. LTD. NO. 54, BRIGADE ROAD, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA-560025,
ALSO AT- H. NO. 26, II MAIN ROAD, PALAM GROVE FLATS, BESANT NAGAR, CHENNAI, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence of forgery punishable **Under Section 120-B r/w Sec 420 & Sec 13(2) r/w 13(1)(d) of PC Act, 1988** of the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **PALAMDAI VISWANATH SRINIVAS @ P V SRINIVAS** cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **PALAMDAI VISWANATH SRINIVAS @ P V SRINIVAS, S/O SH PR VISWANATHAN,** has absconded. (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said **PALAMDAI VISWANATH SRINIVAS @ P V SRINIVAS, S/O SH P R VISWANATHAN** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on the day of dated this 07.08.2026.

Dated this 22nd day of May, 2026.

Sd/-
Special Judge (PC Act) CBI-13
Court Room No. 506, 5th Floor
Rouse Avenue District Court
New Delhi

CBC 32205/11/0003/2627

Alkem MedTech Ortho Private Limited
(Formerly known as Bombay Ortho Industries Private Limited)
Address: Almighty Gate, Plot No. G-1432, Lodhika G.I.D.C, Metoda, Dist. Rajkot 360021, Gujarat, India
CIN: U33309GJ2021PTC122834 GST No. 24AAJCB8722C1ZX

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, BENCH, AT AHMEDABAD
CP(CAA)26/AHM/2026
CONNECTED WITH
CA (CAA) 9/AHM/2026

In the matter of Companies Act, 2013;
And
In the matter of Petition under Sections 230-232 of the Companies Act, 2013 and other relevant provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamation) Rules, 2016;
And
In the matter of Scheme of Amalgamation between Alkem Medtech Ortho Private Limited and Alkem Medtech Private Limited under Sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013.

Alkem Medtech Ortho Private Limited (CIN: U33309GJ2021PTC122834), a company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, having its registered office at Plot No. G 1432 Village: Metoda, Taluka: Lodhika, Rajkot, Rajkot, Gujarat, India, 360021. ...**Petitioner Company / Transferor Company**

Alkem Medtech Private Limited (CIN: U32509MH2024PTC422195), a company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, having its registered office at Alkem House, Senapati Bapat Marg Lower Parel, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India, 400013. ...**Non-Applicant Company / Transferee Company**

NOTICE OF ADMISSION AND HEARING OF COMPANY PETITION.

A Company Petition under Sections 230 to 232 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 for sanctioning the Scheme of Amalgamation between Alkem Medtech Ortho Private Limited and Alkem Medtech Private Limited under Sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("Scheme") was presented by the Petitioner Company on 7th May, 2026 and was admitted vide Order dated 11th June, 2026 passed by the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Ahmedabad Bench ("Tribunal"). The said Company Petition is fixed for hearing before the Hon'ble Tribunal on 17th July, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. or soon thereafter.

Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said Company Petition should send to the Advocates of the Petitioner Company, at Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, Advocates and Solicitors at Block A-1512, 15th Floor, Navratna Corporate Park, Ambli Bopal Road, Bodakdev, Ahmedabad – 380058, notice of such intentions, in writing, signed by him/her or his/her Advocate, with his/her name and address, so as to reach the Advocates of the Petitioner Company not later than 7 (seven) days before the date fixed for hearing of the said Company Petition. Where he/she seeks to oppose the Company Petition, the grounds of opposition or a copy of his/her affidavit intended to be used in opposition to the Company Scheme Petition, shall be filed with the Hon'ble Tribunal and a copy thereof be served on the Advocates of the Petitioner Company at the aforesaid address, not later than 7(seven) days before the date fixed for hearing and final disposal.

A copy of the Scheme will be furnished by the undersigned to any person concerned, on emailing the Petitioner Company, after payment of prescribed charges.

Dated this 16th day of June, 2026.

Authorised Signatory
Alkem Medtech Ortho Private Limited
(Formerly known as Bombay Ortho Industries Private Limited)
(CIN: U33309GJ2021PTC122834)
Tel: +91 6357200065
Email: contact.medtechortho@alkemmedtech.com
Plot No. G 1432 Village: Metoda, Taluka: Lodhika, Rajkot, Rajkot, Gujarat, India, 360021

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, गोरखपुर
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Gorakhpur
(स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय भारत सरकार द्वारा स्थापित एक स्वायत्त निकाय)
(An autonomous organization under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
Website-https://aiimsgorakhpur.edu.in

NON-FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

Offline applications from eligible Indian citizens/other citizens as permissible under the applicable Act/Rules are invited to fill up following **Non-Faculty (Group A)** various posts on **Direct Recruitment Basis** at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh):

Sr. No.	Name of the post	Group	Pay level (7th CPC)	No. of Vacancies					
				UR	OBC	SC	ST	EWS	Total
1.	Child Psychologist	A	Level 10	1	-	-	-	-	1
2.	Clinical Psychologist	A	Level 10	1	-	-	-	-	1
3.	Medical Officer (AYUSH)	A	Level 10	3 (Ayurveda-01, Homeopathy-01, Yoga & Naturopathy-01)	-	-	-	-	3

The above vacancies are provisional and subject to variation. The Executive Director, AIIMS, Gorakhpur reserves the right to change the number of the vacancies including reserved vacancies as per the Govt. of India rules/circulars. **Application form along with Brief and PowerPoint formats are available on institute's website www.aiimsgorakhpur.edu.in**
All the applicants are advised to check AIIMS, Gorakhpur website **www.aiimsgorakhpur.edu.in** on Regular basis for any further updates.

Sd/-
Executive Director
AIIMS Gorakhpur

Are We Now A Step Closer To Altered Babies?

Breakthrough Gene-Editing Method Makes It Safer To Modify Embryos

WHY GENE-EDITING EMBRYOS CAN BE RISKY

CRISPR is the world's most widely used gene-editing tool. But in embryos, an "off-target" edit in DNA has the **potential to trigger errors or harmful mutations**, which could become permanent features in people. These errors, many experts say, can be passed on to future generations, risking the entire human gene pool

Another concern with gene editing, overall, is the thin line between fighting disease and "enhancing traits" **(see right).** Some scientists say once gene-editing is mastered to prevent conditions like muscular dystrophy, it may be used to boost muscle or even athletic ability in healthy embryos. Curbs remain on pre-birth embryo editing and as this scientist explains, humanity is still years away from safe pre-birth DNA editing...

'DESIGNER BABIES': GIFTED KIDS OF WEALTHY PARENTS

If left unregulated, gene-editing in the future may allow reproductive clinics to offer expensive genetic tweaks. And parents who can afford these tweaks may decide to give their kids...

FAIR SKIN, LIGHTER EYES
Melanin production in children may be altered to ensure they have lighter complexion. Even eye colour can be decided using gene-editing tools

ABILITY TO WORK MORE
Imagine a child who only needs to sleep for four hours. Scientists have already found genes they could tweak for better rest

SLOWER AGEING
Cellular-repair mechanisms can be manipulated and production of antioxidants increased to extend overall longevity

$3.2 BILLION
The global market value of the CRISPR gene-editing industry as of recent evaluations. It's projected to touch **$28 billion** by 2035

WHAT IS THE BREAKTHROUGH? AN EXPERT EXPLAINS...

1 What is base editing?
Instead of cutting DNA fully, base editing changes a single DNA letter — like correcting a typo than rewriting the paragraph. Here, scientists converted one DNA base into another while only nicking one DNA strand instead of cutting both. Embryos tolerated this much better

2 Can this stop certain genetic diseases?
Potentially, yes. One gene edited in the test is linked to foetal hemoglobin, already a major therapeutic target for sickle cell and beta-thalassemia. Idea is good: instead of fixing the faulty gene, you activate a backup system in the body that cuts disease severity

3 How far is this method from clinical use?
My guess is we are still decades away. The tested embryos were not implanted, no pregnancies occurred. There still are unresolved problems. What this research does is explore if certain therapies we already use to cure disease can be safely deployed before birth

4 What are the rules on embryo editing?
Internationally, and in India too, scientists have a cautious approach. Experiments in regulated conditions may be conceivable, but embryo editing is not part of accepted clinical practice under current rules. Indian authorities are formulating guidelines on gene therapy

– Debojyoti Chakraborty | SENIOR PRINCIPAL SCIENTIST, CSIR-INSTITUTE OF GENOMICS AND INTEGRATIVE BIOLOGY

With inputs from ***Umesh Isalkar***

When a rogue researcher in China revealed in 2018 that he had used CRISPR to create three gene-edited children, his actions were almost universally condemned by biologists. The main objection was not that gene-editing babies is wrong in itself, but that the CRISPR method used wasn't safe and had a very high risk of causing harmful mutations.

Now, a team in the US has used an improved form of CRISPR, known as base editing, to edit healthy embryos, and shown that it can be done without introducing unwanted mutations. So, are we now at the point where we could consider allowing the use of the technique? The answer is no, because a major obstacle remains.

Our DNA consists of two strands. The first form of CRISPR to be developed uses a protein called Cas9, which hooks up with a piece of guide RNA that helps it find a specific place in the genome. Once there, Cas9 cuts through both strands. When a cell tries to repair the damage, it often makes mistakes, introducing small mutations that can disable genes.

So CRISPR-Cas9 is a destructive technique even when it works as intended, and it sometimes goes wrong, with the cut ends of DNA being reattached in the wrong places, causing large mutations and chromosomal abnormalities.

But many improved forms of CRISPR have been developed. For instance, CRISPR base editors change a single DNA letter to another, and during the process cut only a single strand of DNA. So base editing can be used to make precise repairs with much less chance of anything going wrong. The technique has already saved lives and a number of trials are under way — for instance, to test it as a treatment for conditions that result in very high cholesterol.

But editing embryos is very different from treating diseases. In adults, it doesn't matter if gene editing doesn't work perfectly in every cell — often only a fifth of cells in, say, the liver, need to be successfully edited to treat a disease. In a human embryo, however, gene editing has to work perfectly, because that embryo will give rise to every cell in the body. In 2017, a team in China reported promising results in a small study that used human embryos discarded during IVF because of abnormalities. They found base editing made the desired change in almost every embryo, with very few unintended changes.

Now, Dieter Egli at Columbia University in New York and his team have done a larger study using healthy two-cell embryos donated by parents, with broadly similar results. The team tried making two changes. One was successfully made in three-quarters of cells, with no unwanted changes. The other change worked only in around half of the cells, and often caused unwanted changes. The researchers think the reason it worked well in one case and not so well in the other is down to the guide RNAs used — with better design and testing of guide RNAs, it should be possible to avoid off-target effects, they say.

But the biggest problem is base editing didn't work in every cell in each embryo, an issue called mosaicism (see Q&A).

If a mosaic embryo develops into a child, only some of the cells in their body will have the intended change, which means they could still develop the disease the gene editing was meant to prevent. The three gene-edited children growing up in China may all be mosaics. The trouble with this is that there is currently no way to be sure a gene-edited embryo isn't a mosaic. When there is a risk of children inheriting a serious disease, a single cell can be removed from IVF embryos for genetic testing. This could be done with gene-edited embryos, too, but if the embryos are mosaic, testing a single cell isn't enough.

So while these latest results are promising, mosaicism is going to have to be solved.

How? Well, one way would be to use gene-edited sperm or eggs. If the editing is done before an egg is fertilised and starts to divide, there should be no mosaicism. That has not been done in humans, but a start-up recently claimed it can generate sperm in the lab from sperm stem cells — and if that's true, it should be possible to gene-edit those sperm stem cells.

That approach might help us get to the point where we can safely gene-edit children. Whether we should is another question.

(Michael Le Page, New Scientist, 2026, distributed by Tribune Content Agency)

Why One Chimp Society Splintered, And Turned Deadly

Anjali.Jhangiani
@timesofindia.com

An ongoing civil war among chimpanzees in a Ugandan national park has renewed focus on fission events in animal societies. The conflict among the Ngogo chimpanzees — nearly 200 in total — has claimed at least 28 lives, including infants, since it erupted in 2018.

Scientists studying or following the internecine conflict in Kibale National Park say this is a rare, permanent split — only the second documented chimpanzee civil war following renowned primatologist Jane Goodall's chronicling of the four-year clash (1974-78) among Tanzania's Gombe chimpanzees.

A recent study, published in the journal 'Science' by primate behavioural ecologists, attributes the civil war to growing population, finite resources and more aggressive young males. Co-author John Mitani says the Ngogos had become unusually large: chimpanzee troops usually comprise 40-50 members; Ngogo had grown four times as big.

John Mitani

MURDER: Morton (left) & Garrison were inseparable when the Ngogo civil war erupted. Garrison's faction later killed Morton

"As a consequence, within-group feeding and reproductive competition intensified, fracturing the community (into Central and Western subgroups) ... there was a change in the alpha male around the time hostilities broke," says Mitani, who has observed the Ngogo chimps since 1985 with colleague, David Watts.

Mitani has logged thousands of hours observing the Ngogo chimpanzees and the recent viciousness took him by surprise — chimpanzees which once co-existed were strategically hunting each other down. One example is seared into Mitani's mind — two chimpanzees, Morton and Garrison, were inseparable before the split. Morton ended up in the Central group and Garrison in the Western. In 2024, the Western faction ambushed and killed Morton. "Such brutality typically does not occur in other primate species after a fission. It's difficult to explain why members of one group are killing individuals with whom they've shared a long history," Mitani adds.

Over the decades, fission events have been seen among other animal groups (meerkats, red deer, Soay sheep, etc), though few have been as bloody as the Ngogo civil war.

British zoologist Tim Clutton-Brock found that dominant female meerkats in South Africa's Kuruman river basin would expel weaker members, leading to skirmishes over foraging spots. Similarly, in Scotland, red deer fracture into matrilineal herds, but rival groups would only injure mating rivals; killings were rare. Since 1985, on Hirta Island, British evolutionary biologist Josephine Pemberton observed frequent discord among Soay sheep over dominance and mating rights.

It's not all animals. Elephants, for instance, live in "fission-fusion" societies: they split into temporary need-based units with feeding, mating or other social considerations.

Professor Vidya TNC, chair of evolutionary and organismal biology at Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research in Bengaluru, has been studying elephants in the Kabini region of Nagarahole and Bandipur National Parks for 17 years.

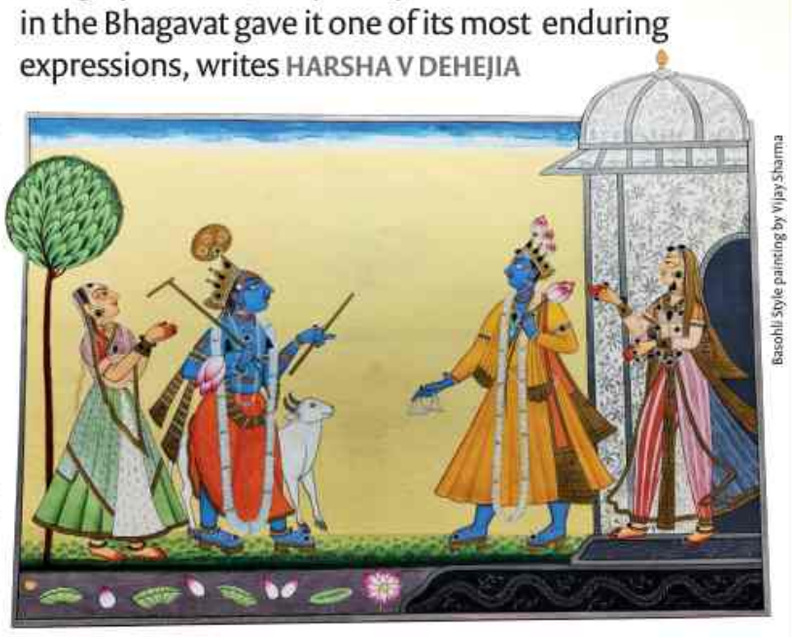
"Elephants form clans like chimp troops, but core ties persist ... clashes stem from competition either for food or for mates. We have [never] seen this kind of a thing (like the Ngogo civil war)," Vidya says.

QUICK QUIZ ON JUNE 1 Our question: The Soviets in 1986 first attempted to keep the Chernobyl disaster a secret from the world. But which country, nearly 1,000km away, was the first to detect radiation in the air from the collapsed reactor? **Answer:** Sweden

THE SPEAKING TREE

Krishn Shringar: Epitome Of Indic Aesthetic Thought

While shringar was already an established aesthetic category in India, the portrayal of Krishn's divine love in the Bhagavat gave it one of its most enduring expressions, writes HARSHA V DEHEJIA



Basohli Style painting by Vijay Sharma

Gopis' rati bhav, sensually evocative and ecstatic love for Krishn, is expressed through many *lilas* and *kridas* of Krishn in the mythic Vrindavan of *Dasham Skand* of the *Bhagavat Puran*. The Dasham Skand transforms the rati bhav into *shringar ras*, where Krishn's *madhurya* and *viraha*, two opposite *ardh satyas*, blend into a seamless *purna satya*. As a result, the *sakar* becomes *nirakar*, the particular becomes universal, the temporal becomes timeless, the *laukik* becomes *alaukik*, and there is a state of *vismaya*, wonder.

In *Bhagavat*, the single and steadfast *Purush*, through His lilas, becomes the manifold, polychromatic *Prakriti* and Prakriti, through shringar, returns to Purush. This is the eternal dance of Purush and Prakriti. This is a state of advaita, reached through a two-step process: *Kama* is replaced by Krishn, *kamana* by *jnan*; for gopis, Krishn is sensually evocative, and even though absent, is present everywhere. This is Shuddh Advaita, where sensuality, set in an idyllic landscape, becomes the doorway to knowledge.

Krishn shringar in the *Bhagavat* is *Brahmnjnan*; it is not a romantic story but a pathway to higher knowledge. Krishn shringar in the *Bhagavat* avoids the didactic teaching found in *Gita* and leads us from joy to greater joy and from sensuality to spirituality. The teaching of the *Bhagavat* is as if your beloved is whispering sweet words into your ear or holding your hand and walking you through an aromatic garden.

In *Gita*, Arjun is in a state of *vishad*, is undecided and confused on the battlefield of Kurukshetra, and turns to Krishn for guidance. Gopis, on the other hand, are joyous and want to participate in lilas and kridas of Krishn in Vrindavan so that they can go from joy to greater joy, from ardh satya to purna satya, from kamana to jnan. Aesthetics or the realisation of satya through engaging with what is satya and sundaram is a late starter in the Indic wisdom tradition.

The *Bhagavat* was composed between 8th and 10th century. Before that Indic thought was largely dominated by Advaita Vedanta, Buddhist philosophical precepts and ascetic Jain monks' teachings which promoted abstinence, renunciation and freedom from sensual attachment. Aesthetics, in the Indic tradition, faced an uphill task in becoming a self-standing knowledge system. This was due to several reasons. First, beauty for the Indian mind was intimately tied to divinity. In other words, for mankind, only the Divine can be truly beautiful. Tukaram, when he was referring to Vitthal of Pandharpur in his *abhang*, says, "*sundara te dhyan, vite var...*" For him, as for most Indians, true beauty can only reside in our gods and goddesses, in their icons and rites and rituals. Secular beauty can at best be secondary to this. Secondly, the hyper-erotic culture around tantra took the concept of beauty into realms of eroticism.

Rishis such as Bharat with the *Natyashastra*, Anandavardhan with the *Dhwanyalokah*, and Abhinavagupt with *Abhinavabharati* had prepared the way for aesthetics, or knowledge through *saundarya*, and Krishn bhakti reinterpreted sensuality of shringar, suggesting that without any religious rites or rituals, it could lead to transcendent knowledge, *Brahmnjnan*.

Krishn bhakti framework transformed the word 'madhu,' from the *Rig Ved*, into 'madhurya', an adjective that becomes a contemplative noun. This was a significant development in the field of aesthetics.

While shringar was already an established aesthetic category in India, the portrayal of Krishn's divine love in the *Bhagavat Puran* gave it one of its most influential and enduring expressions. Krishn shringar of the *Bhagavat* is a crowning achievement of Indic aesthetic thought. ■

COMMENTREE

Modi hails US-Iran deal, calls for peace

Pak Emerging As Negotiator May Hit India

Sachin.Parashar
@timesofindia.com

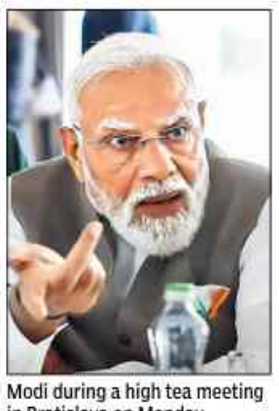
New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi has welcomed the US-Iran understanding on ending the conflict in West Asia, while expressing hope that its implementation will help restore peace and stability in the region and ensure the freedom of navigation and commerce. In a post on X, Modi said, "We look forward to deliberations on the remaining issues reaching a sustainable final agreement."

India had in April too welcomed a temporary ceasefire announced by both sides, notwithstanding the fact that it had been brokered with help from Pakistan. On this occasion, Pakistan said after the announcement by both Trump and Iran that it would host in Geneva this week the signing of the agreement.

India's reaction suggests it is ready to take a long view and prioritise peace in its extended neighbourhood, instead of being constrained by its volatile relationship with Pakistan. Official sources said India had already benefited from the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz as an Indian LNG tanker, Disha, passed through carrying cargo from Qatar.

While the agreement is still contingent upon support from Israel, the deal promises to further India's interests in the region in several other areas, apart from energy, like connectivity, diaspora and rapidly expanding strategic partnerships with the region through initiatives like the I2U2 involving UAE, US, Israel and India. India anticipates that peace would accelerate work on such initiatives.

But Pakistan's emergence as a credible negotiator — going by the accolades it received Monday along with Qatar from countries like France, Germany, Italy, Canada and the UK — India may be faced with some diplomatic realignment challenges in the near future.



Modi during a high tea meeting in Bratislava on Monday

Review stand on Israel, says Cong

New Delhi: Welcoming the likely accord, Congress Monday said PM Modi should give up his "unconditional support" to Israel.

Congress spokesperson Jairam Ramesh said, "...humanitarian considerations and long-standing commitments apart, our national interest demands greater balance than Modi has shown."

Brent slips on US-Iran deal, energy relief likely for India

Atul.Mathur@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Falling global energy prices after a preliminary US-Iran agreement to end hostilities and reopen the Strait of Hormuz may bring relief to Indian refiners and gas consumers. Refiners have been selling petrol, diesel and domestic LPG below market rates, while users have faced sharp increases in gas prices, including CNG.

Brent crude slipped to nearly $83 per barrel Monday, a significant development for India, which imports nearly 88% of its crude oil requirement. The rate at which Indian refiners procure crude, was recorded at $86.77 per barrel Friday, the latest available price, and is expected to decline following the fall in global energy prices.

Spot LNG prices jumped from around $10 per million British thermal units (MMBtu) before the crisis to as high as $25 per MMBtu, before moderating to an average of about $18 per MMBtu now.

When asked whether it could also lead to a reduction in petrol and diesel prices, Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in petroleum ministry, said it was too early to comment.

LNG carrier Disha crosses Hormuz safely

▶Continued from P 1

Improvement in energy supplies may not immediately translate into relief due to extensive damage to facilities and uncertainty over the timeline for restoration of their normal operations. The Qatar facility has a long-term gas supply contract with India.

UAE's Habshan Gas Plant was also damaged, disrupting operations. While 60% of its capacity has been restored, officials said 80% recovery was expected by the end of 2026, with full structural restoration anticipated in 2027. According to officials, two liquefied natural gas (LNG) trains — processing units — at state-owned QatarEnergy's Ras Laffan facility were damaged, wiping out roughly 17% of its capacity.

STATE OF AFFAIRS

35 No of India-bound ships stuck in Persian Gulf

16 No ships carrying fertiliser

No of India-bound ships safely crossed Strait of Hormuz | 10 Indian-flagged & 5 foreign-flagged

13 No of Indian-flagged ships stuck in Persian Gulf

Before the conflict, India imported more than 88% of its crude oil requirement, with nearly half coming from West Asia. More than 60% of its imported LNG also passed through the Strait of Hormuz. India sourced nearly 60% of its LPG requirements from West Asia, including Qatar, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, with about 90% of these supplies transiting through Hormuz. TOI has learnt that while 15 ships are carrying crude, LNG and LPG, the remaining three are other types of vessels.

Briefing reporters on the recent developments, Opesh Kumar Sharma, director in shipping ministry said, "LNG carrier Disha, managed by a Shipping Corporation of India-led consortium, has safely transited the Strait of Hormuz, and she is carrying 62,370 tonnes of LNG cargo. The vessel is supposed to enter Dahej on coming to India, likely on June 18."

Bandana Preyashi, joint secretary in the fertiliser department, said out of the 16 ships in the crucial strait, eight are carrying urea, four diammonium phosphate (DAP), three sulphur and one ammonia. In these ships, there are 3.3 lakh tonnes of urea, 2.6 lakh tonnes of DAP and 1.1 lakh tonnes of sulphur.

She added that with sufficient stock and lined up imports, govt is fully prepared for the Kharif season. "The department does not anticipate any problem in the season," she said, while adding that they are keenly watching the developments. Another official said one ship carrying sulphur, which was stuck in the Strait, recently reached India.

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2026

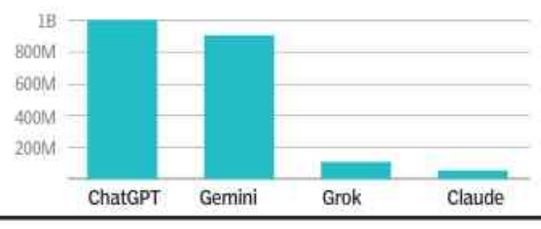
CLASH OF AI TITANS

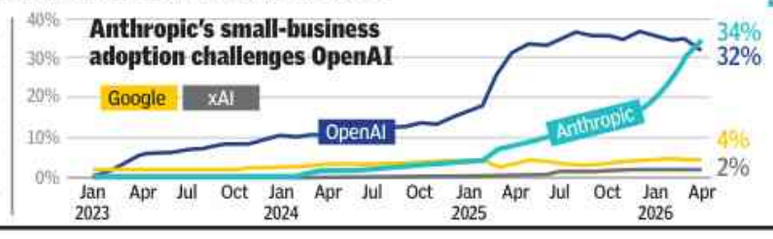
AI giants OpenAI and Anthropic have chosen to go public at the same time sending global observers into a tizzy. While OpenAI is looking at a valuation of around $1 trillion, its rival is marginally behind at $965 billion

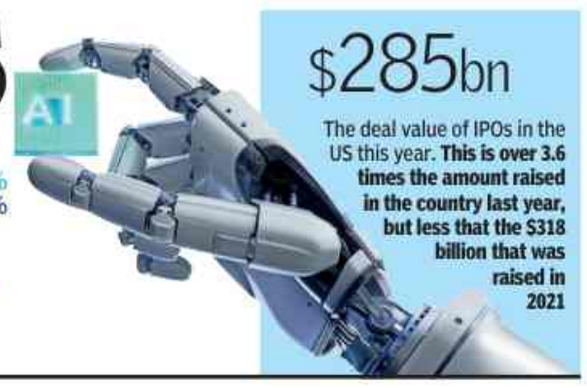
Source: Reuters

OpenAI's ChatGPT stays ahead of the AI chatbot pack

Monthly active users of ChatGPT reach 1 billion, according to Sensor Tower







$285bn

The deal value of IPOs in the US this year. **This is over 3.6 times the amount raised in the country last year, but less that the $318 billion that was raised in 2021**

Razorpay confidentially files for IPO

Mumbai: Fintech Razorpay has filed draft IPO papers with markets regulator Sebi through the confidential route, said people familiar with the matter, joining startup peers Zepto and Prism which are headed to Dalal Street for public listings. The Y Combinator and Peak XV Partners-backed company is seeking to raise up to Rs 6,000 crore through the IPO, sources said, adding that the final issue size and timing of launch will depend on market conditions. Razorpay declined to comment. The company was last valued at $7.5 billion.

Razorpay, which rivals players such as Cashfree Payments and PayU in India, shifted its domicile from the US to the country in May last year. Startups looking to list in India have been increasingly moving their bases here to comply better with local regulations and cash in on the growth derived from the market. Razorpay is moving ahead with its IPO plans at a time when bigger fintech peer PhonePe has paused its listing due to the war-led market volatility. TNN

RBI issues stricter norms to curb mis-selling by lenders

Bars Unauthorised Bundling And Deceptive Digital Practices

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Reserve Bank of India has finalised its consumer protection framework under responsible business conduct guidelines, tightening rules on mis-selling, deceptive digital practices & unauthorised bundling, and shifting to a prescriptive regime.

The directions impose a strict consent-capture and interface-design protocol, closing gaps left in the Feb 11 draft. According to the framework, banks must capture explicit consent via verifiable modes such as signed physical/electronic declarations, OTP approvals, recorded confirmations or clearly demarcated agreement clauses.

RBI said interfaces must default to 'No' or 'I do not agree', forcing conscious opt-in. According to the rules, banks must disclose key product terms upfront. These include interest/fees/risks/lock-ins/exit penalties.

CONSUMER-FIRST APPROACH

- **Banks must capture explicit consent** via verifiable modes such as signed physical/electronic declarations, OTP approvals, recorded confirmations or clearly demarcated agreement clauses
- **Customers can file mis-selling complaints** within regulator-set timelines or within 30 days of receiving signed agreements
- **Proven mis-selling will trigger full refunds** and compensation for the resulting losses
- **Banks will remain fully liable for agent conduct** and must publish a code of conduct

The central bank has barred bundled consent. According to the directions, banks must present each product in a separate module, enabling selective choice. Banks must retain consent records for one year after contract end to aid dispute audits.

The framework widens agent scope. According to the directions, direct selling and marketing agents now cover all sourcing entities, including business correspondents and loan service providers, and extend to sub-agents at the customer interface. Banks must publish and update empanelled-agent directories within seven days, listing identity, location and permitted products.

The central bank eased rules on data access. Seeking device data such as location/camera/contacts will not count as a dark pattern if mandated for compliance and transparently disclosed. The rules also allow voluntary or zero-cost bundles.

The directions reaffirm a ban on forced bundling and dark patterns such as basket sneaking, subscription traps, confirm shaming and drip pricing. These include messages such as, "Are you sure you want to miss out on exclusive offers and updates?" or "No, I prefer to stay uninformed about great deals," implying opting out is unwise.

According to the RBI, consent must be active, specific and separately captured, with interfaces built for informed choice. The framework takes effect on Jan 1, 2027, after RBI gave a six-month extension for system upgrades.

The RBI said customers can file mis-selling complaints within regulator-set timelines or within 30 days of receiving signed agreements.

Sarvam joins unicorn club, raises $234mn

Round Led By HCLTech, Bessemer Venture Partners; Desi AI Co Now Valued At $1.5Bn

Shilpa Phadnis & Supriya Roy | TNN

FOCUS ON EXPANDING COMPUTE INFRA

- Funding round also saw participation from **existing investors Khosla Ventures and Peak XV Partners**
- **HCLTech invested $150 million as lead strategic investor,** acquiring a 10.4% stake in company
- Sarvam co-founder Pratyush Kumar said **fresh capital will expand compute infrastructure, help hire AI talent and build new products,** including an AI-assisted coding platform
- The Bengaluru-based start-up's revenue has grown rapidly, **rising from negligible levels in FY24 to ₹1.5 crore in FY25 and ₹45.1 crore in FY26,** according to unaudited financials

Bengaluru: Homegrown AI startup Sarvam has raised $234 million in a funding round led by HCLTech and Bessemer Venture Partners, catapulting its valuation to $1.5 billion and making it one of India's newest AI unicorns.

The round also saw participation from existing investors Khosla Ventures and Peak XV Partners. As part of the transaction, HCLTech invested $150 million as the lead strategic investor, acquiring a 10.4% stake in the company.

The funding comes amid growing investor interest in India's AI ecosystem. Earlier this year, AI cloud platform Neysa raised $1.2 billion in a Blackstone-led funding round to expand large-scale AI infrastructure.

Sarvam co-founder Pratyush Kumar said the fresh capital will expand compute infrastructure, help hire AI talent and build new products, including an AI-assisted coding platform aimed at competing with global software engineering assistants such as Claude and Codex.

He said HCLTech's investment would help Sarvam accelerate its international expansion while continuing to work with a broad ecosystem of enterprises and technology partners. HCLTech CEO C Vijayakumar said the partnership would combine Sarvam's AI research capabilities with HCLTech's global reach to create a full-stack AI platform for enterprises and govts. The Bengaluru-based startup's revenue has grown rapidly, rising from rather negligible levels in FY24 to Rs 1.5 crore in FY25 and Rs 45.1 crore in FY26, according to unaudited financials, reflecting increasing adoption of its AI offerings.

Kumar said Sarvam has demonstrated that India can build competitive frontier AI models with strong Indian-language capabilities. The company's next phase will focus on end-to-end products in agentic AI and coding AI.

"We want enterprises to be able to deploy trusted AI agents within their own control environments," he said, adding that the company is also scaling its Voice AI and Document AI offerings, which are seeing growing enterprise adoption. Sarvam launched a 105-billion-parameter foundational large language model (LLM) and a suite of tools designed for commercial use.

Kumar also revealed that Sarvam now has access to one of the first Blackwell-based AI compute clusters operating in India. Nvidia's Blackwell architecture is designed for accelerated AI training and inference workloads.

"While we don't own the data centre infrastructure, we manage the software stack required to run these systems efficiently. Having compute located in India is strategically important because it lowers costs and reduces dependence on overseas infrastructure," he said. Addressing questions related to investors from foreign shores backing a company championing sovereign AI, Kumar said global capital and Indian innovation are complementary.

He added that AI adoption in India remains in its early stages despite its transformative potential. "The question is whether India will become merely a consumer of AI built elsewhere or develop its own capabilities. We believe India is too important a market and too important a country not to build its own AI infrastructure and models."

4 of Vedanta's demerged biz list on bourses

Mumbai: Four businesses of the Vedanta group, demerged from its flagship Vedanta Ltd—aluminium, oil & gas, iron & steel, and power—were listed on the bourses on Monday, which unlocked market value worth a little over Rs 50,000 crore. Vedanta Aluminium, Vedanta Oil & Gas, Vedanta Iron & Steel and Vedanta Power, all part of Vedanta Ltd till April 29 this year, were demerged earlier this year, the company said.

This is the first instance of a corporate demerger in India when one single company was divided into five separate listed entities. The listing creates a portfolio of focused, world-class businesses spanning strategic metals, critical minerals, aluminium, oil & gas, power, and iron & steel sectors, the company said in a release. At the close of Monday's session on BSE, Vedanta had a market capitalisation of Rs 1.2 lakh crore. TNN

W Asia peace deal lifts sensex, Re gains 40p/$

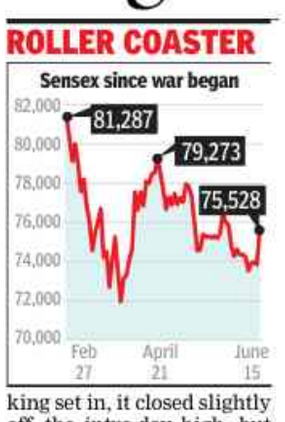
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The West Asia peace deal between US and Iran which could eventually end the war in the region, lifted sensex by 736 points on Monday. The index closed at 76,264 points. The day also witnessed foreign funds turning net buyers of equities after remaining net sellers for days altogether, crude prices plunging more than 5% and the rupee strengthening substantially to below 95-to-the-dollar mark.

L&T and Reliance Industries contributed the most to the day's gains in the sensex, exchange data showed.

After the deal was announced early on Monday, markets were in an upbeat mood with sensex opening almost 1,200 points higher. It gained some more points in early trades and then as profit taking set in, it closed slightly off the intra-day high, but was still up 1%. The day's gains made investors richer by almost 8.5 lakh crore with BSE's market capitalisation now at Rs 470.5 lakh crore. These gains came on the back of a Rs 200-crore net buying by foreign portfolio investors, BSE data showed.

ROLLER COASTER



Fund managers and brokers said that with the deal now done, investors would look at, among other things, the pace of normalisation of the energy infrastructure in the region, rains in India, fund flows to the country etc.

According to Nilesh Shah, MD, Kotak Mahindra Mutual Fund, investors' focus would now shift to the normalisation on the ground of the supply chain that was majorly affected by the war, and prices of crude oil coming back to double digits. In addition, the domestic investors would also watch out for the spread of the monsoon, fund flows as well as guidance from the companies.

In the foreign exchange market, the peace deal boosted the rupee. It touched a high of 94.46 against the dollar and closed at 94.71, a gain of 40p over Friday's closing.

SolarSquare raises $53m led by B Capital

Bengaluru: Residential rooftop solar company SolarSquare has raised $53 million led by B Capital, with participation from existing investors Lightspeed, Elevation Capital, Lowercarbon Capital, Rainmatter and Good Capital, **reports Supriya Roy**.

Co-founder and CEO Shreya Mishra told **TOI** the fresh capital will expand into new cities, strengthen the company's technology platform, hire talent and develop adjacent offerings such as battery storage and home energy management solutions.

SolarSquare, which operates across 25 cities, is currently running at an annualised revenue rate of over Rs 1,000 crore. When it last raised capital around 18 months ago, the company had an annualised revenue run-rate of about Rs 400 crore. Much of the growth has come from gaining market share in existing markets rather than aggressive geographic expansion. " A lot of this growth has come from deepening our presence in existing markets rather than opening new ones," Mishra said.

Goods exports at record $45bn in May, imports at 7-mth high

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Goods exports rose 18% in May to a record $45.2 billion, driven by higher oil prices and restoration in supply chains and shipments to West Asia near last year's level. With imports rising 20.5% to a seven-month high of $73.4 billion, trade deficit widened to $28.2 billion in May.

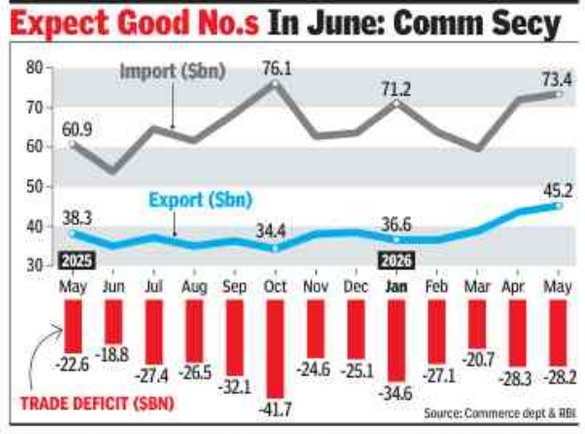
"We have carried forward the momentum seen in April and we have maintained it in May... We should have a good June with things getting back to normal," commerce secretary Rajesh Agrawal said Monday. Reopening of the crucial Strait of Hormuz is also expected to reduce cost pressure on Indian businesses, he said.

Engineering goods (24.5% rise to $12.3 billion) and oil products (55% jump to $8.4 billion) were the top drivers of exports, with non-oil exports rising 12% to $36.8 billion. What also helped was some sort of normalcy in shipments to West Asia, with exports in May pegged at $5.3 billion, compared with $5.4 billion a year ago as both sides opened new trade routes. On the import front, however, the closure of the Strait of Hormuz resulted in a near 18% fall to $10.7 billion in May, although it was a significant improvement over the 52% fall seen in March. A key reason for the decline is the disruption in supply of oil, gas, fertiliser and petrochemicals.

While higher crude prices meant that the oil import bill in May was about 53.8% higher at $22.8 billion, gold imports went up 34% to $3.4 billion. There was, however, some respite in silver, which fell 87% to $75.6 million. But electronics saw a 36% rise to $12.3 billion.

On the services front, exports are estimated to have increased 13% to $36.8 billion, while imports are seen to have risen 14.4% to $19.1 billion in May, resulting in a surplus of $17.7 billion.

Expect Good No.s In June: Comm Secy



Delhivery opens 1k rest stops for gig workers

Bengaluru: Logistics company Delhivery has opened over 1,000 rest centres for delivery workers across 600 cities, in a move aimed at improving welfare infrastructure for India's growing gig workforce, **reports Supriya Roy**.

The initiative, called Vishram, will provide delivery workers across platforms —including ecommerce, food delivery and courier—with access to washrooms, drinking water, seating, mobile charging points and first-aid facilities.

It is also making the facilities available to riders from competing platforms. COO Prashant Gazipur told **TOI** the move is a long-term investment in worker welfare and goodwill in an industry where riders often switch between platforms.

Heavy selling by foreign funds results in BOP deficit

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: India's balance of payments swung from a surplus of $0.5 billion in April 2025 to a deficit of $6.6 billion in April 2026, even as the current account moved into surplus during the period. The current account recorded a surplus of $4.7 billion in April 2026 compared with a deficit of $4.8 billion a year earlier, driven by strong inflows in invisibles.

Net transfers (comprising largely of worker remittances) led the improvement, rising by $6.6 billion to $16 billion from $9.4 billion, reflecting higher remittance inflows in the wake of the West Asia conflict and rupee depreciation. The services surplus also increased by $2.7 billion to $18.6 billion, supported by a rise in exports from $32.8 billion to $37 billion. The primary income deficit narrowed by $1.1 billion to $1.9 billion.

CAD SURPLUS OF $4.7BN IN APRIL

Period	CAD ($ billion)	Overall BOP status
Q2 FY26	$12.3bn deficit	Deficit
Q3 FY26	$13.2bn deficit	Deficit
Q4 FY26	$7.1bn surplus	Surplus
April 2026	$4.7bn surplus	Deficit $6.6B

These gains helped offset a wider merchandise trade deficit, which increased to $27.9 billion from $27.1 billion. However, the overall balance turned negative due to a sharp deterioration in the capital account, which shifted to a deficit of $11.3 billion from a surplus of $5.3 billion in April 2025.

FPI outflows widened significantly to $8.7 billion from $2.1 billion, indicating heavy selling by overseas investors. Banking capital reversed to an outflow of $3.7 billion from an inflow of $3.3 billion.

Foodstories raises ₹50cr from Nikhil Kamath of Zerodha

Bengaluru: Gourmet retail startup Foodstories, founded by Ashni Biyani and Avni Biyani, has raised Rs 50 crore from Zerodha co-founder Nikhil Kamath. Narotam Sekhsaria Family Office, an early backer of the firm, also participated in the round. The fresh capital will be used to strengthen its digital business, expand delivery network and grow retail footprint. "Better food is one of the highest-leverage changes a person can make to how they live. Foodstories is one of the few platforms building real infrastructure for that, Kamath said." TNN

West Asia crisis alters India's trade map

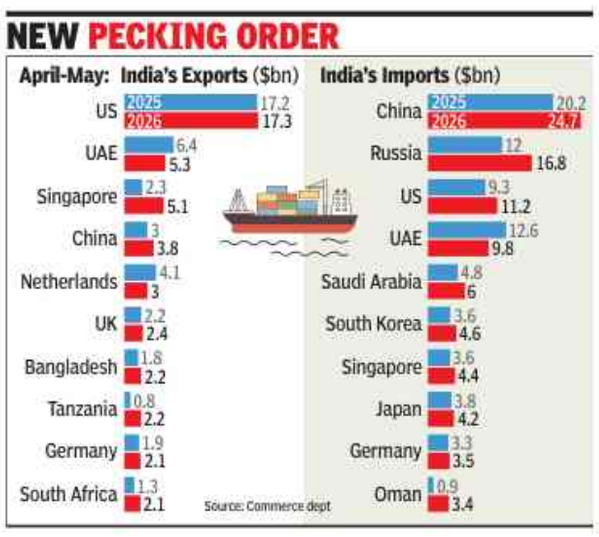
Sidhartha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The West Asia conflict has quietly altered India's trade map.

During April-May 2025, Oman was the 30th largest source of imports for India. In the first two months of the current financial year, helped by energy, Oman moved up to 10th spot, thanks to a 3.8 times jump in imports to $3.4 billion. In contrast, during April-May, UAE slipped to the fourth place, with Russia returning to the second spot, followed by the US.

India's hunt for LPG or cooking gas is behind US moving up, while energy also helped imports from Brazil shoot up 2.8 times to $2.7 billion during this period. Shipments from Peru too were 3.7 times higher at over $2 billion, latest numbers from the commerce department showed. The South American nation is now the 20th biggest import source, compared to 35th in April-May 2025.

NEW PECKING ORDER



On the export front too, the trading order has seen a change. During April-May, Singapore overtook China and the Netherlands to emerge as India's third largest export destination — lagging second-ranked UAE by $180 million (see graphic).

There are other changes too: Tanzania was the eighth biggest destination for exports, compared to 25th in April and May 2025, while South Africa was at the 10th position, moving up two places in a year. Commerce secretary Rajesh Agrawal said oil and gems and jewellery are driving exports to Tanzania, which shot up from $800 million in April-May last year to $2.2 billion so far this year. Neighbouring Sri Lanka is now ranked 12th, with exports rising nearly three times to $1.8 billion.

The 2.2 times increase in exports to Singapore to $5.1 billion was driven mainly by a surge in export of oil products to the island nation, which was hit hard due to the war in West Asia. It helped it go one up on China, which saw exports from India rise over 25%, not a mean feat, given the communist country's tight barrier.

The blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, the crucial link to the Persian Gulf, has meant that Oman has become a gateway of sorts to the region. Agrawal said the Gulf nation, with which India rolled out a free trade agreement earlier this month, has opened three of its ports — Sohar, Salalah and Duqm — for Indian goods to transit to other countries, including the UAE. As a result of the efforts, exports to West Asia are nearly back to last year's level, although imports are still around 18% lower due to energy supply disruption.

Wholesale inflation rises for 8th mth in row, PPI debuts

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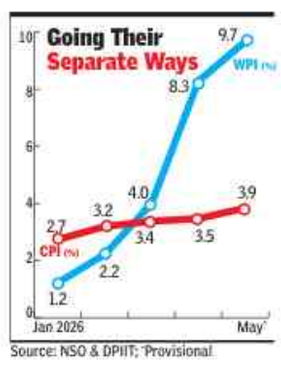
New Delhi: India's wholesale inflation surged for the eighth consecutive month to 9.7% in May from 8.3% in April on account of high prices of crude oil and manufactured products, the newly released wholesale price index (WPI) series Monday with the updated 2022-23 base year showed.

Besides, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) also released the maiden producer price index (PPI), covering the output and input manufacturing prices and prices of seven services - banking, securities transaction, insurance, management of pension funds, railways, air passengers and telecom. It estimated inflation at 9.4% in May, driven largely by mining and quarrying (19%) and manufactured products (11.3%).



In WPI, prices of crude petroleum and natural gas accelerated 61% in May, as compared to 56% in April. Similarly, the prices of mineral oils accelerated 50% during the month, reflecting the impact of the supply chain disruptions caused due to the prolonged conflict in west Asia. "If prices do come down sharply as has been seen today, there can be moderation in WPI inflation for sure on this account," said Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis.

The factory gate prices for manufactured products rose 7.5% in May from 6.7% in April, led by acceleration in the prices of industries like food products, textiles, leather, chemicals, electrical equipment, basic metals, among others. The weightage for manufactured products has slightly come down to 63.1% in the new series. Wholesale prices of food items also witnessed a rise in May as food index rose to 4.5% in May from 3.1% in April.

The new WPI series has seen an increase in the coverage of items to 957 from 697. New sources of energy, such as solar and wind, along with nuclear power, have been added under the electricity group. The new series showed that wholesale inflation stood at 0.4% in FY26.

A thought for today

Peace is not absence of conflict, it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means

RONALD REAGAN

Oil Quiet? Not Quite

It's not a deal till it's signed, and there will be risks even after, so don't count your barrels yet

Trump gave himself a birthday gift on Sunday, but unpacking it will take a while. Is the war on Iran really over? That's the second question on top of everyone's mind. The first is, will oil go back to $73, where it was before Feb 28? The answers are 'maybe', and 'probably not', respectively. Here's why.

As for peace, neither US nor Iran has appeared keen on fighting since April, never mind Trump's wild rhetoric. Still, tensions and the Hormuz blockade have persisted because of Israel's actions. So, Trump's ability to rein in Netanyahu is the biggest if. But there are others, too, like Iran's stand on nuclear enrichment. The nuclear question isn't part of the agreement that both sides will sign this Friday. For that, they've given themselves 60 days. Much can go wrong in two months, or between now and Friday. Hence, permanent peace remains a maybe, even though markets have strongly signalled faith. Stocks are up, dollar's down, so is oil.

But markets are fickle. They have swung many times already in the past three months. What's notable, though, is oil's gradual slide towards $80, from a high of around $120. If traders are willing to book long-term contracts at a lower rate, there's reason to hope the worst of the crisis is over. That said, the dip from $80 to $70 won't happen overnight. Nor can captains of stranded vessels heed Trump's call: "Ships of the World, start your engines. Let the oil flow!" Even if US and Iran lift their respective blockades on Friday, the 500-odd ships stuck in Persian Gulf can't exit immediately. Given that the Strait is mined, their passage will have to be carefully controlled. Removing all mines might take months.

Good news is that those vessels are laden with over 100mn barrels of oil, and Gulf countries – unable to ship oil and gas since Feb – are sitting on inventories. So, whenever shipping normalises, massive amounts of oil and gas could flood markets. But…prices won't fall, as buyer countries will rush to fill up their depleted strategic reserves. Also, now that markets and insurers have seen what Iran can do with Hormuz, they might price in a premium to cover future risks. Gas prices might stay high even longer, because Qatar needs 3-5 years to repair its damaged LNG capacity. Overall, peace will ease pressure on the global economy, but a quick return to Feb's prices is unlikely.

Nude Lesson For NCERT

Dancing Girl doesn't need a modesty shawl, teenagers don't need Mohenjo-daro photoshopped

She's about 4,500 years old. But age hasn't withered her, nor custom staled her infinite variety. The thing that she has in common with the much, much more youthful Mona Lisa is that when you meet her face to face, you're wholly mesmerised. By her large eyes, flat nose, bodily vigour, trademark bangles…Her spell is all the more remarkable because the Dancing Girl of Mohenjo-daro is only about four, bronze inches tall. This suggests an out-of-time metallurgical mastery. It's a reminder that we know so little about our cool Harappan ancestors. We haven't even cracked their script. But the artefacts they've left behind are central to understanding them.

This is why Dancing Girl's been in our school textbooks for decades. It's how education instils civilisational pride. But suddenly, NCERT censored her image, smudging the bare torso, in an art textbook for Class 9. The regressiveness and irony were acute. Dancing Girl embodies a teenager "perfectly confident of herself and the world", totally chill in her dress of bangles and a cowry necklace. But today's teenagers will get corrupted by her truth, the new curriculum gatekeepers claimed fantastically. Too many of them are hellbent on outdoing Victorian colonialists, who tagged so much of our inheritance as embarrassing or illicit.

Every person has a body. If schools are pretending otherwise even in Class 9, that really sucks for students bang in the middle of a sex hormones spurt. Yes, they might still giggle and squirm at nakedness. But this is exactly where art can be super educational. A classroom discussion can explore why nakedness feels awkward in some cultures and unremarkable in others, how societies construct ideas of modesty, shame and beauty. It can teach students to really look, rather than merely react. So, it's good that public outcry's forced NCERT to reverse its photo-edit. And Dancing Girl is returning, bangles, confidence and all, exactly as she has stood for millennia.

Mein Chai Kampf

How even Hitler can get lost in translation

Subodh.Ghildiyal@timesofindia.com

Shock and horror crossed my face, paused briefly for dramatic effect, then retreated behind a diplomatic blankness. I pulled out my phone, as one does when civilisation trembles, and photographed the evidence. Later, my amused friend reconstructed the moment for me: in the thinning mist of a spotless Himalayan morning, I had encountered a signboard cheerfully welcoming travellers to "Hitler Tea Shop".

Naturally, I shared this cultural thunderbolt on Facebook. A long-lost cousin, drawn from the genealogical undergrowth by the scent of absurdity, resurfaced to say hello, and laugh like a landslide. Then came the explanation. In the 1980s, this hill town had begun turning into an education hub, with a degree college, an ITI, and assorted temples of ambition. Students arrived in hordes, rented Pahadi homes, and began requiring the staples of scholarly life: tea, breakfast, lunch, dinner, and gossip. A quick-witted local opened a tea shop, spotted the expanding appetite, and prospered. The place was a 'hit'. Why it was named after Hitler, however, remained wrapped in Himalayan fog.

I have since exported this story across continents, including to a roomful of flabbergasted Germans at a Hamburg conference. It appeared, somewhat alarmingly, in my talk on what Germany means to India, jostling for space with Dhyan Chand's wizardry at the 1936 Olympics, Hitler's rumoured offer to him and his rejection of it, and Advani's 1980s reflection that India needed a Bismarck.

The truth is that Hitler occupies a strange, unsettling corner in everyday Indian speech. In the West, rightly, he is the emblem of industrialised hatred. In India, "Hitler hai" may simply mean a tyrannical principal, boss, father, or bus conductor. "Bada Hitler hai tu?" is mockery. "Poora Hitler hai" can even be praise.

Perhaps Indians were too absorbed in their own freedom struggle when Hitler was setting the world on fire. Perhaps Bose's Berlin chapter blurred the moral lines. Nehru, meanwhile, snubbed Nazis and visited Jewish shops. Even then, complications had begun. They have not entirely ended.

Trump's Big Small Iran Deal

Even if the agreement survives, he'll have to sell moderate concessions from Tehran as a major success. US didn't gain anything from the war. But Iranians did

Rouzbeh Parsi

Iran expert, Lund Univ, Sweden

Iran has become the most vexing and revelatory of Trump's foreign policy forays. It displays all the potential advantages of his style, and confirms all the weaknesses of the same. His ability to make quick decisions, and dispense with conventional wisdom, could lead to diplomatic breakthroughs – but the fact that his state department hasn't really recovered from his first presidency, and the personalistic style of reaching decisions, mean that institutional backing for statecraft has been rendered rather useless.

In the case of Iran, this internal weakness made it even easier for those clamouring for war with Iran to win the day. That they claimed to be surprised by the fight Tehran put up, says more about their unwillingness to know the enemy before waging war, than it does about some mysterious force of resistance that Iran would have conjured up.

Iran has never been as weak as those inside the Beltway would have it. Nor does military superiority make up for the lack of a strategy and a plan. While both parties claim a willingness to go back to war, it serves neither. The only difference is that Tehran, with some plausibility, believes itself able to take more pain, and still stand up – more than Trump and the world economy can. This is one of the reasons the announced initial agreement to end the war, is not a series of Iranian concessions, but an attempt to return to the status quo ante – with some serious caveats.

What does all of this lead up to? Either a very long and bloody war. Or the contours of a reluctant and intermittent effort to negotiate with Tehran. For this to happen – and bear fruit – Washington has first had to acknowledge that it cannot achieve anything by way of war. In fact, it has lost more than it has gained from this unlawful and unprovoked war on Iran. And now, Trump has had to come to grips with the fact that even though a ceasefire would, somehow, allow him to avoid dealing with consequences of his failed war, Iranians and the global economy need something more robust and tangible – and that will require US to compromise.

The third option is to continue the present limbo, but without US involvement. That means no US blockade of the Iran blockade, but also no lifting of US sanctions. This, in most likelihood, isn't good enough for Tehran.

While there are many rumours about what the MoU contains, it is fairly certain that it will include the opening of Strait of Hormuz, and the return of some of the billions of dollars of Iranian money frozen abroad. How much, and exactly how it will be returned, will probably be part of the step-by-step process needed, both in order to build mutual confidence and also to dilute the negative blowback from hawks in DC, Tehran, and most importantly Tel Aviv.

Image: AI

Just like during the negotiations in 2013-2015, the process is necessary but also exposed to its enemies, who will do what they can to sabotage it. Iran's insistence on Lebanon as part of the deal clearly risks giving Netanyahu a lever to pull – and he has already started, striking Beirut's southern suburbs just hours before Iran was due to sign, in a move transparently designed to collapse both the Iran deal, and the fragile Lebanese ceasefire, and drag Washington back in.

That being said, Tehran's calculation is that if US leaves the scene, it can continue a military response to any Israeli incursions in Lebanon. The other risk is that heavyweights on both sides insist they won a total victory – which by definition means the other side lost spectacularly. While that gives you a quick boost domestically, it makes it impossible for the other side to defend the agreement in front of their constituencies. If the MoU is signed and survives, the next 60 days will be filled with the intricacies of trying to stitch together two very different ideas of how the war went, and what the other side needs to give up.

Time is one of the enemies here. First, because 60 days is not much if you need to iron out a compromise that survives the trip home. Second, because Iranians will most likely insist on sanctions to be lifted (rather than getting exemptions that'll need renewal every 90-120 days).

Such a compromise will inevitably include US concessions and acceptance that Iran will most likely not give that much more than it did in the Iran nuclear deal or JCPOA in 2015. That little extra is what Trump will sell as the qualitative difference to Obama's JCPOA. It will not convince politicians in DC, but it might win him back some of his voters, who don't care for wars in West Asia.

The more significant difference to 2015, is that Iran's geopolitical position is more central and stronger after the war with US. And many regional actors that have been involved in trying to bring the parties to a peace deal are heavily invested in its success – because it is about their own survival. In 2015, the JCPOA rested on Washington and a reluctant Europe, while this agreement, if it holds, is underwritten by the region itself.

Welcome To Football's 'Moneyball' Version

AI is big in football's greatest show. Teams are using it to analyse games, players, and training modules. Predictive analytics isn't far away. Even team selection can be AI-led. But, thankfully, it can't create a gifted footballer

Atanu Biswas

The debut of ChatGPT in Nov 2022, just about the time when Qatar World Cup began, was a sign that AI was being mainstreamed. And the use of AI at FIFA World Cup 2026 is evidence of this trend. Starting on June 11, this is the first men's World Cup since the advent of AI, thanks to OpenAI's ChatGPT, Anthropic's Claude, X's Grok, and Google's Gemini, among others. At Qatar, AI wasn't really visible to most spectators. But the 2026 tournament is entirely different.

The book, *Moneyball*, authored by Michael Lewis in 2003, and adapted into a movie in 2011 starring Brad Pitt, tells the true story of Billy Beane, the manager of an American baseball team Oakland Athletics. Beane was able to achieve enormous success in Major League Baseball (MLB) because he used analytics based on historical data to create a strong team out of undervalued players. Consequently, the Moneyball era came into being in sports and other spheres of life. Today is the AI Moneyball era, 25 years after Billy Beane's Moneyball experiment.

AI Moneyball in sports is the progression of sports analytics into predictive intelligence. Continuous, machine-learning simulation engines that track precise, frame-by-frame player movements; monitor athlete workload; scout talent; model injury risks; and maximise on-field performance take the place of static spreadsheets.

AI is now widely employed in American MLB, National Football League (NFL), and National Basketball Association (NBA). It is also expected to revolutionise everything around soccer. Sports teams will be able to optimise their performance and longevity through constant monitoring of their athletes' health status, fatigue, and recovery with the help of wearables and biometric analysis.

Most recently, Oakland Ballers have been identified as the first professional baseball team to use AI in making most of their decisions on the playing field, including lineups and substitutions. Similarly, an AI head coach was appointed for the Norwegian football team HamKam FC. In NFL, relevant videos are automatically classified for coaches, based on real-time game situations such as down, distance, and field position.

Notably, it will be the first FIFA World Cup in which every side has the same AI analyst on the bench. To level the playing field, FIFA has released Football AI Pro, an AI tool co-developed by Lenovo, which is accessible to all teams. In essence, it's ChatGPT for football, allowing all 48 World Cup teams to query FIFA's exclusive match data – millions of data points over more than 2,000 metrics – and receive tactical insights in the form of 3D avatars, animated replays, and video. It keeps learning during the tournament as well, and will be smarter than it is currently.

Image: AI

Football AI Pro, frequently described as an equaliser, has the potential to reduce the disparity between big and small teams. In a note in May, Bank of America (BofA) Global Research stated, "If in the past, rich teams had an advantage; in 2026, AI will democratise data and give everyone a similar chance."

Beyond that, though, each team will have access to its own AI model, enabling analysts to compare playing styles using 3D avatars and video footage. Players will receive individualised match analysis, and coaches will be able to evaluate how tactical adjustments might perform against their next opponents. It is generally believed that US, Germany, and England are leading the way in utilising AI to obtain an advantage.

For instance, England's AI World Cup strategy includes everything from powering players to mastering penalties. They have employed a variety of AI tools, some developed within the FA and some purchased from outside tech companies, to analyse data, identify intriguing facts, and produce presentations that are used in meetings to help coaches and players comprehend complex material.

Both referees and viewers will also be benefitting from the employment of AI. Prior to Qatar 2022, Globant was hired as a digital partner; late last year, the collaboration was extended to include the creation of a new FIFA World Cup app. The app uses AI to provide fans better, more customised experiences. Semi-automated offside technology (SAOT) is one example of how AI will be utilised at the biggest World Cup ever. "The 2026 World Cup is the first tournament where the data itself is a primary product," the BofA research team said.

Midway in the movie *Moneyball* praising the human aspects of baseball scouting, old-timer Grady says, "Billy, baseball isn't just numbers and science...They lack our level of experience." In response, Billy Beane said, "Adapt or die."

Billy Beane did really adapt. And crucially, he could disseminate the idea of embracing technology and mathematics in sports and other aspects of lifestyle. It's clear now that today's Billys must embrace AI as well, even for Moneyballisation, if they hope to survive at all.

However, data security and privacy will be an important issue. Teams should also make sure AI is utilised to supplement human decision-making, not to replace it. For, a single Lionel Messi or Kylian Mbappé might still render AI Moneyball ineffective through sheer human magic.

The writer is Professor, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata

Calvin & Hobbes

Sacred*space*

Don't despair: despair suggests you are in total control and know what is coming. You don't – surrender to events with hope.

Alain de Botton

All We Need Is Love

Sant Rajinder Singh

Recent studies into human well-being have increasingly identified loving relationships, meaningful connections, and a sense of belonging as among the greatest contributors to happiness and quality of life. This insight echoes a truth that saints and mystics have proclaimed for centuries. At our core, we are soul, a drop of the ocean of love that is God. The soul is standing patiently at the doorway of the inner eye, waiting for its Eternal Beloved. While much of life revolves around family, career, and daily responsibilities, the soul is longing for its Creator. Meditation is the process of turning to our inner doorway, stilling the body and mind, and waiting patiently to experience the divine Light and Sound already resounding within.

As such, love is our very essence. The secret to a life well lived lies in experiencing that love within us, in our relationship with the Divine, and in our relationship with all of creation. Meditation is not about demanding experiences from God or attempting to impose our will upon the Divine. Rather, it is about collecting ourselves inwardly and waiting with an empty cup at the threshold for the Omniscient. Spiritual growth begins when we surrender ego and place our trust in God's wisdom, recognising that the Divine knows our past, present, and future far better than we do.

THE SPEAKING TREE

True faith grows through personal experience and through learning to trust God's guidance in every circumstance of life. Returning to one of the central themes of saints, although human beings appear free, they often remain bound by desires, attachments, and dictates of the mind. The challenge is a restless mind, which continually pulls our attention outward through thoughts, desires, and distractions. The saints have described this condition as an open prison.

Though free, we remain confined within the cycle of birth and death so long as our attention remains trapped in worldly desires. To still the mind, saints and mystics have prescribed the practice of *simran*, the repetition of God's name, which gradually gathers the scattered attention and focuses it on the Divine.

The spiritual path is, at its heart, a journey of love, a journey that begins with longing, deepens through experience and remembrance, and culminates in reunion. Drawn by the invisible pull of the Beloved, the soul continues its journey Home, guided by the current of divine love. And when veils of separation finally fall away, the soul realises that the Beloved had been waiting within all along. What began as longing and was sustained by love culminates in the sweet joy of reunion, the soul's long-awaited Homecoming to its Eternal Beloved.

As meditation deepens, the beauty of the Beloved unfolds before the soul in greater splendour, and with each glimpse, its longing grows stronger. The more we behold that beauty, the more enchanting it becomes. Drawn by the radiance of the Beloved within, the soul gradually loses its attachment to fleeting attractions of the outer world. The things that once appeared so compelling are recognised as temporary and passing. In their place emerges a deeper source of joy and fulfilment, born of direct experience of the Divine's love.

As we turn our attention towards the Divine within, we discover the inexhaustible source of love, peace, and joy that has always been present in us.

₹5,500 TO LOB A GRENADE, ₹7,500 TO SHOOT

In Punjab, drug-hit youth are becoming cut-price hitmen

Driven by drugs and a lack of jobs, youngsters are turning to killing for meagre sums as police grapple with new recruitment networks and a growing spate of crime

Navjeevan Gopal & Payal Dhawan | TNN

All it takes is a few thousands and some grams of heroin..." The statement — part worry, part exasperation — from a senior Punjab Police officer shows how easy it has become to recruit killers amid a spate of crime in the state. The pipeline, steady and loaded, is being fed by drugs and a lack of jobs, police say, as the drug addict today becomes tomorrow's assassin.

The purported sums paid for some recent crimes underlines how youngsters are killing for nothing more than a pittance. For instance, the recent jobs for lobbing grenades on a police outpost in Patiala (April 1, 2025) and on another one in Haryana's Ajimgarh (April 6, 2025) went for just Rs 5,500 each. Those contracted were offered Rs 3-4 lakh but pulled the pin for a fraction, with the promise of being paid later.

Again, the probe into the April 1 grenade blast outside the Punjab BJP HQ in Chandigarh revealed that the two accused were promised Rs 2 lakh each but hurled the bomb after getting Rs 19,000 in two instalments and a further Rs 18,665 in nine instalments. A gunman who fired at migrant workers in Moga in Feb this year got only Rs 7,500 from a foreign handler.

ISI Hand

"Punjab has emerged as a key recruitment geography owing to high youth unemployment in rural and semi-urban belts, social media exposure to glorified gangster culture, and existing extortion and arms supply routes," said a senior officer. Security agencies also speak of a plot by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to destabilise the border state through a nexus of terror operatives and gangsters. They point to the murder of

Instead of hardened criminals, foreign-based operators and gangs are now targeting unemployed or under-employed youth, and even minors, with clean records, making detection harder. "They hail from such needy backgrounds, or are so desperate for drugs, that they are ready to kill anyone for Rs 10,000," a senior officer said

two policemen at a checkpost in Gurdaspur on Feb 22, saying that one of the accused, Dilawar Singh, had received Rs 3,000 of the Rs 20,000 promised by ISI, which had plotted the attack. ISI had offered Rs 2-4 lakh to the three men involved, but they did it for far less, police said.

"Investigation into major crimes shows how gangsters or ISI agents are increasingly picking young boys, even minors, drug addicts and the poor. They hail from such needy backgrounds, or are so desperate for drugs, that they are ready to kill anyone for Rs 10,000," a senior officer said.

Balish Ahuja

Firearms used by gangsters in an encounter with police in Punjab

Police arrest a suspect with alleged links to gangster Goldy Brar following an encounter

Ludhiana Police inspect the site of an encounter with two Rajasthan-based criminals who were arrested after sustaining bullet injuries

But not just drugs and money, in some cases, foreign-based radicals have also been known to lure youngsters by promising them foreign visas.

"We see a growing operational model wherein foreign-based handlers rely on psychological manipulation and false financial assurances rather than substantial payments. This is a serious security concern as it lowers the financial barriers to executing violent acts while increasing the risk of radicalisation and recruitment among economically vulnerable sections of society," said a senior police officer.

Another officer mentioned an ISI plot that was foiled on Nov 20, 2025, and led to the seizure of two hand grenades from Rajasthan-based suspects who were arrested after a police encounter in Ludhiana. Police discovered that the duo arrested had agreed to pull the pin for Rs 25,000. And another suspect, an addict, had earlier agreed to do the job for Rs 12,000 cash and 2gm of heroin.

"Pakistan-based Shehzad Bhatti, Abid Jatt and Mussa Khan, who work at the behest of ISI, are trapping youngsters through social media. They have created multiple Instagram accounts through which they contact needy persons to work for them," added the official.

Low Risk, High Impact

A senior officer in Ludhiana recalled an extortion racket run by gangster Goldy Brar. "We caught 10 local youths. Some were tasked with identifying businessmen who could be extorted, while others were asked to shoot at their residences to scare them. All these youngsters were promised Rs 10,000 for each task, along with drugs. Only two of them received some money as they had fired at a shop," he said.

Multiple investigators shared that in most cases, those who carry out the crime do not even get the promised amount. "They are initially given Rs 5,000 to Rs 8,000 with an assurance that they will get the rest after the task is completed. However, once it's done, the main conspirators cut them off," said one.

One of the accused involved in the two grenade blasts on July 19 last year at a Mohali police station received Rs 5,500 from a US-based handler while the alleged mastermind, Gurpreet Singh aka Babbu, who is lodged in Patiala jail, is actually said to have promised Rs 3-4 lakh, said an officer.

"It is a calculated approach; handlers exploit vulnerable individuals through false promises while minimising their own costs. The operatives are effectively treated as expendable assets, highlighting a growing trend of low-cost, high-impact operations driven by manipulation rather than genuine financial backing," the officer added.

Three-Step Process

But just how do these modules bait potential shooters and reel them in?

Investigators say that, unlike earlier models that relied on hardened criminals, these networks now deliberately target unemployed or under-employed youth with clean records, making detection harder and arrests more disruptive to families and communities. What they rely on to land fresh recruits is a roughly three-stage process.

"They single out drug addicts, victims of enmity, or those with personal grudges. Some are also recruited on the basis of their religious beliefs or from gyms. Recruiters and gangsters also keep an eye out for youngsters whose social media activity shows fascination with guns, luxury, or 'gangster lifestyle'," said the investigator.

Step 2 is when "soft grooming" takes place. This is when the recruiter avoids any mention of crime after establishing initial contact. "It is more like a casual friendship, where small help in the form of cash is offered. Then comes a low-risk entry task, where the recruiter offers a minor assignment like delivering a parcel, arranging for a bike, watching a location, or buying SIM cards. It is only later that the criminal aspect of the task is revealed," the investigator said.

> **They single out drug addicts, victims of enmity, or those with personal grudges. Some are also recruited on the basis of religious beliefs or from gyms. Recruiters also keep an eye out for youngsters whose social media activity shows fascination with guns, luxury, or 'gangster lifestyle'**
> AN INVESTIGATOR

Once the youth bite the bait, they are recruited as helpers and foot soldiers and assigned roles like reconnaissance of a target, transporting firearms and ammunition, and taking care of vehicles used in crimes. "Interrogation of such youth has revealed a pattern where recruiters paid very little money in advance and left them to face the consequences. More often than not, it led to irreversible criminalisation," he pointed out.

Question Of Jobs

Every officer **TOI** asked about the way out said what was needed was jobs and an all-out war on drugs. "Give the youth jobs. Give them hope. Give them a salary to look forward to at the end of the month. Why would they risk a safe job for a risky crime that pays peanuts? Employment would solve much of the problem. It will make it easier for law enforcement to deal with the true criminal types. Now, you never know who will pick up a gun or a grenade," said an officer.

Over 63,700 suspects have been arrested since Punjab govt's anti-drug campaign, 'Yudh Nashian Viruddh', was launched earlier this year. Thousands of kilos of drugs have been seized with Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann vowing to "erase the blot of drugs".

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, JODHPUR
(An autonomous body set-up by Government of India)
Basni, Jodhpur (Rajasthan) Pin code: 342005
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(Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India)
(3 Floor, NCUI Building, 3 Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg Opp. Asiad Village, New Delhi)
Recruitment of Director (BEDF) (On Contract)
PAD-2020-21-000049 Dated: 15 June, 2026
ADDENDUM
In continuation to the advertisement **dated 05.06.2026** for engagement of **Director** in the **Basmati Export Development Foundation (BEDF)** on contract basis, it is to inform that with a view to have a wider pool of eligible candidates from Research/ extension organizations/ institutions, the age criteria has been revised as under:
"In case of Retired Govt. Servants including officers from Central Government/ Central Autonomous or Statutory bodies/ State Government, not more than 62 years on closing date of submission of application. However, not more than 63 years on closing date of submission of application in case of Retired Govt. Servants from Research/ extension organizations/institutions where the retirement age is 62 years".
It is further informed that the last date for submission of applications has been extended till **25.06.2026**.

KANPUR SMART CITY LIMITED
3rd Floor, Nagar Nigam Mukhyalaya, MotiJheel, Kanpur-208002
Phone – +91-7007876185 e-mail : ksclkanpur@gmail.com
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Kanpur Smart City Ltd.(KSCL) Invites Tender for the below mentioned work under Smart City Mission:-

S. No.	Name of Project	Tender Fees Non-Refundable	Earnest Money Deposit	End Date for Bid Submission	Technical Bid Opening Date
1	Selection of Master System Integrator for taking over existing Kanpur integrated Smart Solutions and providing comprehensive Operation & Maintenance for 3 Years.	₹ 25,000.00 + ₹ 4,500.00 = ₹ 29,500.00	₹42,50,000.00	06-07-2026 at 15:00 Hrs. (IST)	06-07-2026 at 16:00 Hrs. (IST)

a) Tendef documents can be downloaded from website https://gem.gov.in//
b) Bidders are requested to submit the Tender Fee in the form of DD/Bankers Cheque & EMD in form of Bank Guarantee/Insurance Surety Bond/FDR/TDR issued in favor of **"Chief Executive Officer, Kanpur Smart City Limited" Payable at Kanpur** and receipts are to be attached and deposited with Technical Bid Documents.
c) The last date of for pre-bid queries is 22.06.2026 till 11:00 AM through e-mail on ksclkanpur@gmail.com and Pre-bid meeting (22.06.2026 Time 03:00 PM) will be held at **CEO Office, Kanpur Smart City Limited, 3rd Floor, Kanpur Municipal Corporation, Motijheel, Harsh Nagar, Kanpur-208002 Telephone No.-**
d) The deadline for Hard/Physical Copy Submission of Technical Bid documents **is 07.07.2026 till 17:00Hrs. (IST)**.
e) For more details contact Chief Executive Officer, KSCL address- CEO, Kanpur Smart City Limited (KSCL), Conference Room, Third Floor Kanpur Municipal Corporation, Motijheel, Harsh Nagar, Kanpur-208002 Contact No.- +91-9839121096 and through e-mail. ksclkanpur@gmail.com.

Chief Executive Officer
Kanpur Smart City Limited

Ministry Of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
MSME - TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE - (CDGI)
An Autonomous body under Ministry of MSME, Govt of India
A1/1 Industrial Area, Firozabad 283203, ww.cdgiindia.net
GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE COURSE ON
CONTRACT DRAFTING, NEGOTIATION AND DISPUTE MANAGEMENT
Course Duration 2 Days (ONLINE) Date: 20 & 21 June 2026 Time : 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM
Course Content: Understanding the definitive contract checklist, Non disclosure agreement, Cloud computing & the law, Contract negotiation, Drafting and review of commercial contracts, Service level agreements (SLAs), Data protection and privacy provisions, Intellectual property licensing agreements, Vendor and procurement contracts, E-contracts and digital signatures Termination and exit management Practical contract negotiation exercises Case studies on contractual disputes.. More
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Coordinator: 8603769900, 9953920498, 8168984069
Government of India certificate will be awarded

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MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, GOVT. OF INDIA
GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE COURSE ON
AI for Pharmaceutical R&D
Course Duration 4 Days (ONLINE) Date: 20 & 21 and 27 & 28 June 2026 Time : 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM
Course Content: Drug discovery process,Clinical trial design,Preclinical testing methods,Dose response studies,New drug approval steps,Adverse effect monitoring,Formulation development,Bioavailability testing,Quality control in R&D,Regulatory documentation,AI use in drug research,Vaccine formulation,Patent filing in pharma,Nanotech in drug delivery,Ethics in clinical research,Target identification,Lead optimization,Molecular docking,Pharmacokinetics basics,Pharmacodynamics studies,Data analysis in trials,Patient recruitment methods.. More Topics
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NIT,
Gongri Hydro Electric Project -144 MW (2 Units X 72 MW)
Tender No.: DEPL /GONGRI HEP /2026
(INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER
"EPC Execution of Civil, Hydro Mechanical & Electro-Mechanical works including Infrastructure works of Gongri Hydro Electric Project (144 MW) in the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh, India".
DIRANG ENERGY PVT LTD. having its registered office at Patel Estate Road, Jogeshwari (West), Mumbai-400102, is developing Gongri Hydro Electric Project (144 MW), West Kameng district, Arunachal Pradesh, hereinafter referred to as the **"DEPL/ Developer".**
WALMAN INFRA & ENERGY PVT. LTD. having its corporate office at 408, 4th floor Ansal Tower -38, Nehru Place, New Delhi -110019, has been authorized to act on behalf of DEPL to invite bids, evaluate and recommend the lowest evaluated responsive bidder to DEPL for awarding the aforesaid work, hereinafter referred to as the **"WALMAN/Consultant".**
Walman Infra & Energy Pvt Ltd invites bids from prospective bidders fulfilling the Qualifying Requirement under Single-Stage Three-Envelope bidding system through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) route for **"EPC execution of Civil, Hydro mechanical & Electro-mechanical works including Infrastructure works of Gongri Hydro Electric Project (144 MW) in the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh, India".**
For the eligibility criteria and other details, the interested bidders may visit websites www.walmanco.com.
Sale of Bid document is from 22nd June 2026 to 6th August 2026 and Last date for submission of bids is 10th August 2026 by 14:00 Hours IST.
Further, E-mails /Correspondences can be marked to the Vice President (Projects) at walmantenders@gmail.com & Contact No: +91-11-44798339
Dated : 16th June 2026 Vice President (Projects)
Developer : DIRANG ENERGY PVT LTD (DEPL)
Consultant : WALMAN INFRA & ENERGY Pvt. Ltd (WALMAN)

Government of India
Ministry of Textiles
***
Appointment of
Mission Director,
Joint Mission Director (Research & Innovation),
Joint Mission Director (Programme Implementation) and
Deputy Mission Director
under National Technical Textiles Mission
Applications are invited for filling up 04 posts viz. 01(One) post of Mission Director, 01(One) post of Joint Mission Director (Research & Innovation), 01(One) post of Joint Mission Director (Programme Implementation) and 01(One) post of Deputy Mission Director on contractual/ deputation basis under National Technical Textiles Mission in Ministry of Textiles. The detailed information regarding eligibility, qualification, experience etc. for submission of the applications for the post are available on the Official website of the Ministry **www.texmin.gov.in**
Last date of receipt of application: - 19.06.2026
May 2026
Ministry of Textiles, New Delhi CBC 41101/11/0004/2627

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2945600)
E-mail : edrugs.kmscl@kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616
No.KMSCL/ED/17/2026 Date : 12.06.2026
E-TENDER NOTICE
Online bids are invited from **manufacturers/direct importers/ loan licensees** on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the procurement of drugs for the year 2026-27.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	No. of items
1.	KMSCL/ED/VIT-A/RC/2026/016 Dtd. 12/06/2026	1

The last date and time of online uploading of tenders will be 24.06.2026, 5.00 pm. The date and time of opening of Technical bid will be 29.06.2026, 11.30 am. Tender documents can be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**.
(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

25001/372/2627
By E_Mail/e-Despatch
E_Mail ID: serwcbaripada@gmail.com
Ph-No-06792-261343/261344
Gangraj, Baripada
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA
"e" Procurement Notice for Building Work
Identification No.- Online Tender- Building N.C.B. No. 415 for 2026-27.
Letter No. 3117/Date. 06.06.2026
1. Name of the work : Construction of Building Works in the District of Mayurbhanj.
2. Total No. of work : 05 Nos. (Five)
3. Estimated Cost : **Rs. 104.46 Lakh to Rs.119.00 Lakh** (approximately).
4. Eligible Class of Contractor : **As Per Annexure**
5. Period of Completion : **As Per Annexure**
6. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W. Circle, Baripada Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Baripada	Building On-line N.C.B. No. 415	Dt. 20.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M	Dt.06.07.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt. 04.07.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.07.07.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

- **Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in.**
- **Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e_tender website only.**

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Baripada.
OIPR-25001/25130/1/26-27/0015

4001/151/2627
idco | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL) IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR
Bid Identification No. Civil/EST/05/2026-27
TCN No. 15410 Dt. 30.05.2026
NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDING THROUGH e-Procurement
1. **Name of the Work** : Construction of Block level Stadium (with Indoor Hall) in Bamra (Unit 1&2) Block under Sambalpur District.
2. **Value of the Work** : Rs. 1572.57 lakhs
3. **Period of completion** : 12 (Twelve) Calendar Months
4. **Availability of Tender online for Bidding :**
   I. Start Date : 18:00 Hours of dt. 18.06.2026.
   II. End Date : 17:00 Hours of dt. 03.07.2026.
   III. Opening Date : 11:30 Hours of dt. 04.07.2026.

Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**. Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen in **e-procurement portal** as well as in **IDCO website**.
Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Civil)
IDCO, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-4001/4075/1/26-27/0047

TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2026

I WANT TO LIVE MY LIFE, NOT RECORD IT — JACKIE KENNEDY

ANNA FARIS OPENS UP ABOUT 'SCARY MOVIE' AND ANXIETY: 'I WAS CONVINCED I WAS GOING TO BE FRAMED FOR MURDER'

AMY ADAMS SHUT DOWN A 'GRAPHIC' SKETCH IDEA WHILE HOSTING 'SNL' IN 2008 TO PROTECT 'YOUNG GIRLS' WATCHING 'ENCHANTED'

Bibi and Trump on collision course as US winds up war

With Polls Scheduled This Year, Netanyahu Faces Political Crisis At Home

Jerusalem: Israel PM Benjamin Netanyahu bet that his joint war alongside President Trump would topple Iran's clerical rulers and bolster himself ahead of elections at home, as the architect of a US-Israeli alliance that would reshape West Asia. Instead, Netanyahu is on a collision course with Trump as the US president seeks to extricate himself from the war, with both men's goals unmet.

For now, Israeli officials have been cautious in public for fear of angering their most important ally, known for being prickly towards critics. But in private conversations, the frustration is clear. The preliminary agreement is "terrible for Israel," said one senior Israeli official, giving a frank assessment on condition of anonymity. "And there is no one in the Israeli leadership who views it otherwise, from the prime minister to the chief of staff."

Washington says that over the next 60 days, when a truce is in place, it will negotiate full terms that will address US and Israeli concerns, especially over nuclear programme. But Israeli officials said they thought the negotiating period under the deal was likely to be extended, tying Israel's hands from taking military action

Netanyahu and Trump have repeatedly clashed over Israel's refusal to constrain its pursuit of Iran-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon. Netanyahu, facing autumn elections he is projected to lose, may be more willing to defy Trump as he contends with an Israeli public that opinion polls show has grown sceptical of the US president's commitment to Israel's security.

Jonathan Rynhold, a political scientist at Bar-Ilan University, said, "(Netanyahu) will be unable to sell this agreement to the Israeli public. The best that he can hope for is that they fail to reach an agreement and the war restarts to Israel's advantage in 60 days."

Netanyahu's defence minister, Israel Katz, said Monday that troops would remain deployed in buffer zones Israel has seized in Lebanon, Syria and Gaza "indefinitely" to eliminate what it perceives as militant threats. "If Iran attacks Israel due to the events in Lebanon - we will attack it with all our might," Katz said. Eli Cohen, Netanyahu's energy minister, said that Israel would be prepared to act alone if Iran rebuilds its nuclear and missile capabilities.

Opposition figures also condemned the agreement, criticising Netanyahu. The deal marked a "dangerous turn for Israel's security", said Naftali Bennett, a former PM and a leading contender in Israel's upcoming election.

Yair Golan, head of the left-wing Democrats Party, argued that the deal effectively wiped out Israel's military gains. "With the stroke of a pen, enormous military achievements have been erased, while Netanyahu stood on the sidelines: weak, ill, isolated, and without influence," Golan said. AGENCIES

Unlocking Hormuz, Freezing Nukes

While the US and Iran have agreed on a framework to a deal to end the war, the details of the memorandum haven't been made public. The US and Iranian officials have the following to say:

HOW THE DEAL WILL BE PHASED

- Pak PM said both sides have agreed to an immediate end of all military operations
- All sides have said the memorandum will be signed in Switzerland on Friday

HORMUZ AND BLOCKADE

- After the memorandum is signed, the Strait of Hormuz will reopen
- US will also lift its blockade on Iran's ports
- Marine traffic through the strait would be regulated by Iran and Oman

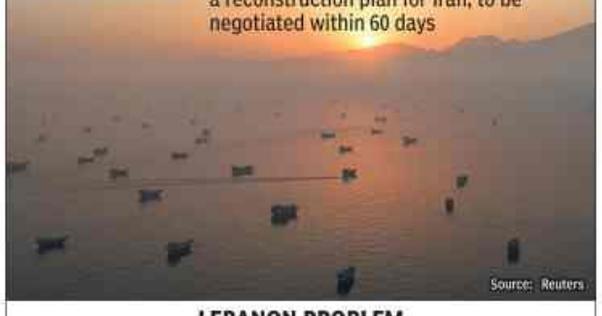
IRAN'S NUKE PROGRAMME

- Negotiations will be conducted over the next 60 days
- Tehran had agreed to neither produce nor acquire nuclear weapons
- Pending a final deal Iran would freeze its nuclear activity

SANCTIONS AND FUNDS

- US to not impose any new sanctions on Iran
- US would waive oil sanctions on Iran for a specified period
- Washington would prepare a reconstruction plan for Iran, to be negotiated within 60 days

$25 BILLION of Iran's frozen assets to be released



Source: Reuters

LEBANON PROBLEM

- **Pak PM** said the end of all military operations would include Lebanon.
- Iran has said US bears responsibility to **implement memorandum**
- Israel has said its military would remain in captured security zones in **Lebanon, Syria and Gaza**

Funds won't be transferred to Iran for signing deal, says Vance

Washington: US vice president JD Vance said on Monday that no funds would be released to Iran in exchange for signing an agreement to halt the war and open the Strait of Hormuz.

In an interview on ABC's "Good Morning America" program, Vance said the agreement was already signed digitally on Sunday and no funds were released. Vance said Iran would receive money only if it took verified steps to eliminate its stockpile of highly enriched uranium. In an interview on CNBC, Vance also said the US expects the Strait of Hormuz would be open without tolls. "Our expectation is that the Strait is going to be opened in a toll-free way for the long-term," he said.

Iran's Fars news agency, meanwhile, said Monday, quoting what it said was an informed source, that: "In the final moments of the negotiations, the text of the memorandum of understanding was amended to clearly and explicitly emphasise the issue of the Iranian-Omani sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz. The use of the term 'maritime services' means that the US has accepted that fees will be paid to Iran."

Fighting in Lebanon eases

Fighting in southern Lebanon eased on Monday, but an Israeli drone strike killed one person and authorities warned displaced people not to rush home as Israel said it would keep troops in the south. The local and foreign security sources earlier said Israel had reduced its attacks, though some artillery fire was reported in southern Lebanese towns and a drone was heard above Beirut and its southern suburbs. AGENCIES

UK follows in Aus footsteps, bans social media for U-16s

Naomi Canton & Agencies

London: UK PM Keir Starmer on Monday announced a ban on social media for under-16s in the UK "to give children their childhood back". Britain will go further than Australia — the first country to ban social media for children — with controls on gaming platforms and the possibility of overnight curfews and curbs on infinite scrolling for under-18s.

Australia, Canada, Brazil and Indonesia have introduced legislation or announced age-based curbs. France, Spain, Denmark, Thailand and South Korea are studying or developing similar approaches

The ban will be on platforms including Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and X, but not on services like WhatsApp and Signal. It is expected to come into force in spring 2027. Children will still be able to go online for learning, news, games and staying in touch with friends and family. AI "romantic companion" chatbots will have to enforce a minimum age of 18 and under-16s will be banned from live-streaming themselves and from making contact with strangers, including on gaming platforms.

"Every parent can see it with their own eyes. Social media is making children unhappy," said Starmer, who has two teenage children. "I've heard first hand from families crying out for change and we will do right by them."

Australia, Canada, Brazil and Indonesia have introduced legislation or announced age-based restrictions or requirements for children's access to social media. France, Spain, Denmark, Thailand and South Korea are among others studying or developing similar approaches. The ban could further inflame UK's tensions with the US, which has warned that regulations should be narrow and not violate free speech protections, according to a statement from the US embassy in London. It said it was also concerned that regulations would place greater burdens on US tech companies.

Starmer said he expected to discuss the issue with US President Donald Trump and other world leaders at a Group of Seven summit in France that starts Monday. "I honestly think that across world leaders, there has always been a recognition that leaders have to take steps to protect children," he said. "I don't think that's controversial."

YouTube was among the first companies to criticise the ban. A spokesperson said: "YouTube is a vital resource for young people, educators and parents. Blanket bans push kids out of such curated, supervised, beneficial experiences, and towards anonymous, less safe services."

A Meta spokesman said: "As we've seen in Australia, bans risk isolating teens from online communities, and driving them to unregulated alternatives that lack built-in protections and parental controls." Snapchat said: "Because the majority of time spent on Snapchat is in private messaging between friends and family, a ban that disconnects teens from those relationships doesn't make them safer — it may simply push them to less safe platforms."

Young people in the UK said they were unhappy with the ban as they found it patronising and many used social media to talk to friends, though govt said nine out of 10 parents supported it.

UK arrests Indian in raid on Russian shadow fleet oil tanker

London: An Indian man was arrested by UK authorities in connection with the alleged violation of Western sanctions on Russia. The arrest was made during a joint operation between the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) and the British armed forces to intercept a Russian shadow fleet oil tanker in the English Channel. British PM Keir Starmer confirmed the development on Sunday.

"Following the interdiction of a Russian shadow fleet vessel in the early hours of 14 June, a 38-year-old Indian national has been arrested by officers from the NCA on suspicion of suspected sanctions offences under the Russia regulations," an NCA spokesperson said. The NCA did not clarify the specific offences for which the Indian national was arrested. "He will be interviewed by NCA investigators. As our investigation remains ongoing, we will not be commenting further at this time," the spokesperson said. According to the UK crime agency, 24 Indian and Georgian crew members remain on board the vessel. AFP

11 DEAD IN ATTACKS ON UKRAINE, HISTORIC MONASTERY DAMAGED

AP

Russia fired hundreds of drones and dozens of missiles at Ukraine's biggest cities in an overnight barrage that killed at least 11 people and set fire to a world-renowned religious landmark, Ukrainian President Zelensky and other officials said on Monday. The attacks on the capital of Kyiv and Kharkiv came after Zelensky and Russian President Putin spoke separately by phone with US President Trump on Sunday. The war in Ukraine is set to feature in talks on Tuesday by G7 leaders at a summit in France. Zelensky said the Russian strikes killed 11 civilians and emergency workers and wounded 53 across Ukraine. The Russian aerial attack on Kyiv also damaged a 1,000-year-old monastery that symbolises Ukraine's spiritual and cultural heritage. France's foreign minister said the attack on the Kyiv Pechersk Lavra monastery, a Unesco site founded in 1051, was akin to bombing Notre Dame cathedral in Paris. AGENCIES

Israel worries Iran could emerge economically strengthened

▶Continued from P1

Between now and then, however, lies an eternity in West Asian diplomacy.

The agreement's immediate objective is straightforward: reopen the Strait of Hormuz, remove Iranian and US blockades imposed during the conflict, halt military operations and create a two-month window to negotiate a broader settlement addressing Iran's nuclear programme and sanctions relief.

The war itself resulted in a significant reversal for Trump. When the US and Israel launched military operations against Iran, both Trump and Israeli PM Netanyahu spoke of weakening — if not toppling — the Iranian regime and denuclearising the country. Instead, Tehran regionalised the conflict, leveraged allied militias, and effectively shut down Hormuz, sending energy prices soaring and testing global supply chains. Unable to achieve decisive military objectives and increasingly wary of becoming trapped in another open-ended West Asia war, Trump pivoted from coercion to negotiation.

The president's political calculations are obvious. With his approval ratings under pressure from rising fuel prices and public unease over foreign entanglements, he had strong incentives to engineer a diplomatic breakthrough ahead of the Nov midterm elections. But critics argue that the administration has merely postponed the difficult choices.

Before the war, the US and Israel had demanded the dismantlement of Iran's nuclear infrastructure, curbs on its ballistic missile programme, and an end to Tehran's support for groups including Hezbollah and Hamas. The current memorandum achieves none of those objectives. Instead, it defers them to future negotiations.

That has alarmed Israeli officials, who worry that Tehran could emerge economically strengthened without making irreversible nuclear concessions. One of Israel's principal concerns is that the framework does not require Iran immediately to surrender its stockpile of enriched uranium.

The domestic American debate is contentious. Traditional Republican hawks like Senator Lindsey Graham have cautiously welcomed the MoU while demanding congressional oversight of any final nuclear arrangement. Graham warned that Iran's understanding of the agreement may differ from Washington's and emphasised that Congress must scrutinise any permanent deal. Conservative commentator Mark Levin was blunter, warning that the emerging framework risked repeating mistakes that allowed North Korea eventually to acquire nuclear weapons.

Meanwhile, Trump's "America First" supporters — long sceptical of overseas interventions — have applauded efforts to extricate the US from another conflict. The president now finds himself balancing two influential factions within his coalition: pro-Israel conservatives who believe pressure should intensify, and anti-war populists who believe the war should never have occurred. Financial questions have further complicated the debate.

Sweden can now kick out immigrants on bad behaviour?

Stockholm: Sweden's parliament passed a law on Monday allowing authorities to revoke immigrants' residency permits based on bad behaviour, such as having unpaid debts, doing undeclared work or links to extremist organisations. The law, which covers pending permits but also retroactively already granted permits, is part of a wider tightening of immigration rules by the right-wing government and its support party, the nationalist Sweden Democrats, ahead of a parliamentary election in Sept.

The law has been criticised by the opposition and human rights advocacy groups as arbitrary because decisions would be taken on behaviour that has not been deemed criminal. The govt, which won the 2022 election on a promise to reduce immigration and crack down on crime, has said that people who misbehave or commit crimes are not welcome. REUTERS

Some carried signs reading 'ICE spies with Google AI', others waved Palestinian flags

▶Continued from P1

Some Stanford graduates carried signs reading "ICE spies with Google AI" and others waved Palestinian flags. There were whistles, boos and cries of "Shame on you" because nothing says "Congratulations, Class of 2026" like heckling the man whose company probably processed the email invitations and streamed the protest. Organised by Students for Justice in Palestine and No Tech for Apartheid, the protests targeted the Silicon Valley giant's contracts with the Israeli govt, with the new grads reportedly incensed by Project Nimbus, Google's $1.2 billion cloud-computing partnership with Israel, as well as alleged uses of AI for surveillance and immigration enforcement.

Commencement speakers this year have discovered that mentioning AI before a graduating class can produce reactions usually associated with airline baggage fees. Last month, former Google chief executive Eric Schmidt learned this lesson at the University of Arizona, where graduates booed after he declared that "AI is going to touch everything".

Bloomberg/File

Pichai faced protests for Google's $1.2 billion cloud-computing partnership with Israel govt

Pichai, clearly having updated his software, avoided the subject almost entirely. Instead, he offered a garden variety commencement speech with stories of setbacks, detours and self-discovery. He spoke of arriving in California from India and wondering what everyone found appealing about a landscape that appeared, to him, suspiciously brown. He recalled abandoning plans for a PhD and the uncertainty of his early years at Google.

And then came the revelation that instantly made him the coolest Indian uncle in Silicon Valley. As a Stanford student, Pichai confessed, he once played hooky to visit Sin City. "This is the first time my parents are hearing about this," he said, amid laughter.

But the dissenters had already moved on. For the second consecutive year, protesting students hosted their own "People's Commencement", complete with an alternative keynote speaker. This year's featured guest was activist Mahmoud Khalil, who became nationally known after being detained by immigration authorities over his pro-Palestinian activism.

Not everyone admired the extracurricular scheduling, though. Venture capitalist Vinod Khosla, also a Stanford alum, blasted the protesters as "biased, idiotic, short-sighted and very selfish". He argued that AI represented humanity's greatest opportunity to improve the lives of billions of people and accused students of focusing narrowly on their own concerns.

But the walkout underscored an increasingly awkward reality for Silicon Valley titans. The industry's leaders once visited elite campuses as conquering heroes — technological rock stars dispensing wisdom to students. Now they arrive as complicated figures: admired for innovation, scrutinised for their companies' influence, and occasionally treated like villains at their own fan conventions.

Ukrainian guilty of attacking property linked to UK PM

London: A Ukrainian man was found guilty on Monday of carrying out arson attacks on property connected to British PM Keir Starmer in May last year. The jury was told Roman Lavrynovych, 22, had been offered payment to carry out arson by an account on Telegram, which used the name "EL Money". EL Money contacted him in both Russian and Ukrainian. Prosecutors did not state who was believed to be behind the account. Helen Flanagan, head of counter-terrorism policing in London, said that there was no evidence Moscow was behind the attacks. REUTERS

WORLD DIGEST

Norway crown princess' son gets four-year jail for rape

An Oslo court on Monday sentenced Norwegian Crown Princess Mette-Marit's son to four years in prison on two counts of rape and 32 other offences. **Marius Borg Hoiby**, 29, Mette-Marit's son from a relationship prior to her 2001 marriage to Crown Prince Haakon, was accused of 40 charges, from rape to traffic violations, carrying a maximum possible sentence of 16 years in prison. Hoiby, who is not formally part of the royal household, was acquitted of two other counts of rape, and convicted of repeated domestic abuse against an ex-girlfriend, traffic violations, issuing threats, a drug offence and others. Prosecutor Sturla Henriksbo said the sentence "fits the seriousness of the crimes that he is convicted of." "This verdict is a victory for our justice system, that shows that no one is beyond the law," Henriksbo said.

US paying almost $25,000 a month to store unusable contraceptives in Belgium

The US is spending almost $25,000 every month to store contraceptives in Belgium that were originally bought for use in poorer nations but are now mainly unusable, according to a report from officials reviewed by Reuters. Around $9.7million worth of contraceptives, including implants and pills, have been stuck in a Belgian warehouse since Jan last year, when the US first froze foreign aid. Between Jan 2025 and March 2026, storing and transporting stock has cost $360,667, according to the report from the Office of the Inspector General for the now-dismantled USAID. The report said storing the contraceptives is still costing $24,550 every month. The US govt is yet to comment.

Hungary limits PM tenure to block Orban's return

Hungarian MPs on Monday voted overwhelmingly to limit prime ministerial terms to eight years in a constitutional change that blocks the return of nationalist Viktor Orban, who ruled for 16 years. The amendment was a key campaign promise of pro-EU conservative Peter Magyar, who ousted Orban in April.

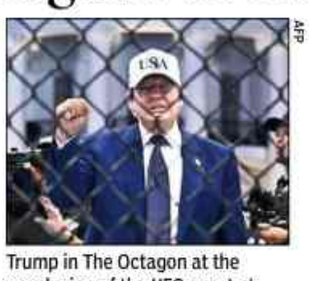
Make America Grotesque Again? In Trump's US, spectacle beats up statecraft

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: There was a time when a presidential evening at the White House meant chamber music, state dinners, and deep conversations about nuclear disarmament and trade deficits. Now it apparently means a UFC fighter grabbing a microphone to thank President Trump for having "the balls to put some s**t like this on," professing his devotion to Jesus Christ, and declaring, to cheers from the crowd, that former first lady Michelle Obama is "a man."

Josh Hokit's post-fight outburst at UFC Freedom 250 has become another test case for a divided America. Critics saw it as a grotesque display of coarseness and conspiracy-minded profanity that would once have disqualified a person from polite society, let alone presidential proximity. Supporters hailed it as fearless truth-telling and celebrated yet another victory in the never-ending campaign to "own the libs".

Then there is the fiasco of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool. After a $14.2 million renovation championed by the President as evidence that only he could restore Washington's grandeur, the iconic pool was found to have developed conspicuous patches of algae within days of reopening. Naturally, the MAGA universe skipped right past engineering failures and landed directly into conspiracy theory.



AP

Trump in The Octagon at the conclusion of the UFC event at White House early on Monday

Real America's Voice host Grant Stinchfield took to X to sound the alarm: "President Trump fixes the Reflecting Pool and a week later it's green again... Sabotage... Vandalism? I believe it is...The left can't stand Trump, American greatness, and his quest to make DC beautiful again."

The left, however, was having too much fun on X to be insulted, joking about how Trump not only didn't drain the swamp, he installed one. "You caught me! I did it. I created photosynthesis just to mess with MAGA," gibed California Democrat Ted Lieu. Celebrity chef Jose Andres chimed in with culinary neutrality: "Photosynthesis is bipartisan..." Representative Melanie Stansbury of New Mexico noted dryly, "Not believing in science really comes back to bite you, doesn't it?"

The third episode involved an effort to rename the Kennedy Center as part of a broader campaign to recast Washington's cultural identity. The proposal was abruptly abandoned after protests, prompting critics to celebrate a rare MAGA retreat.

Beneath the dark humour though lies a deeper divide. For one America, vulgarity signals authenticity, expertise represents elitism, and setbacks are evidence of sabotage by liberal forces. For another, such episodes point to institutional decay, where performative outrage substitutes for governance and political point-scoring becomes an end in itself.

America has weathered strange periods before. But for the country's cognoscenti, this moment feels uniquely surreal: part constitutional republic, part reality television, and part internet comment section. "What a way to celebrate America 250 and the twilight of democracy," said Tim Miller, host of the Bulwark podcast.

GOAL RUSH
11 Jun 2026 – 19 Jul 2026
TIMES SPORT | THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU
TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2026

"THE WAY WE PLAY IS NO SECRET. WE TRY TO HAVE POSSESSION OF THE BALL, WE TRY TO GO FORWARD AND ATTACK WITH MANY PLAYERS. WE TRY TO PLAY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PITCH."
—MARCELO BIELSA
URUGUAY COACH

Cabo Verde score a moral win

Favourites Spain Held By Tiny World Cup Debutants

Getty Images

SPAIN 0
CABO VERDE 0

UNFLAPPABLE: Ryan Mendes (20) of Cabo Verde holds off Spain's Gavi (9) and Rodri in Atlanta on Monday

Atlanta: Spain's ghosts of recent World Cup horror shows reappeared in Atlanta as the European champions were held 0-0 by debutants Cabo Verde in their opening game on Monday.

Lamine Yamal was left on the bench as the Barcelona superstar is eased back to fitness after nearly two months out with a hamstring injury and even his appearance as a second-half substitute failed to break down Cabo Verde's dogged defence.

Since winning the World Cup for the first time in 2010, Spain have not won a knockout game and their inability to make dominance of possession count was reminiscent of their meek exits in 2018 and 2022. Blessed with what coach Luis de la Fuente claimed is the best squad in the competition, Spain were considered among the pre-tournament favourites to go all the way and lift the World Cup on July 19.

But the importance of Yamal and Nico Williams to their chances of success was underlined by a flat performance.

Williams also had an injury-disrupted season at Athletic Bilbao and was not introduced until the 87th minute.

Ranked 67 in the world, Cabo Verde were making their debut on the global stage and did a nation of just over 500,000 people proud.

In stark contrast to the searing temperatures faced by some other sides, Atlanta's state-of-the-art air-conditioned stadium meant there was no excuses for the slow tempo of Spain's build-up.

It took until six minutes before half-time for Spain to seriously threaten.

Marc Cucurella, fresh for sealing his move from Chelsea to Real Madrid, sent over a teasing cross that Ferran Torres turned onto the crossbar and Cabo Verde goalkeeper Vozinha got back on his feet to turn Mikel Oyarzabal's looping header over the bar.

Torres tested Vozinho again moments later before Aymeric Laporte's header from a corner was also clawed away by the Cabo Verde number one just before half-time.

The break came at a good time for the Blue Sharks and they comfortably held out in the second period until Yamal's entrance after the second hydration break.

Billed as one of the stars of the tournament, Yamal's appearance instantly lifted the crowd and injected life into the pedestrian Spanish attack.

His first involvement set up a decent opening for fellow substitute Mikel Merino which was too close to Vozinha.

Yamal also began the move that saw Oyarzabal's effort deflected over with Spain's best chance of the second half.

Cabo Verde nearly snatched a famous victory in the final minute of the 90 when Dani Borges planted a header too close to Unai Simon. AFP

STATS THE WAY

Spain		Cabo Verde
804	Passes	304
745	Passes completed	224
40	Crosses	4
6	Crosses completed	0
27	Attempts at goal	6
7	Attempts at goal on target	1

SOUTH AMERICAN TEAMS START OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT

Philadelphia: South American teams have got off to disappointing start to the World Cup, failing to produce a win in three games. Ecuador lost to Ivory Coast 1-0 on Sunday in Philadelphia. Brazil drew 1–1 with Morocco on Saturday, and Paraguay was routed 4–1 by tournament co-host the US.

Ecuador was playing a virtual home game at Philadelphia Stadium, where most of the capacity crowd of 68,274 wore the team's yellow.

Ecuador coach Sebastián Beccacece called it a "very painful situation."

La Tri saw its 19-game unbeaten streak end with its first loss since a 1-0 defeat to Brazil in September 2024.

"I'm very sorry we did not give our fans the joy they came to seek," Beccacece said. "It was an unfair defeat, played out in a fantastic stadium atmosphere. We have to focus on what lies ahead, and — I believe— keep the faith."

Ecuador captain Enner Valencia said the team remains hopeful despite the loss. "We're keeping our heads held high knowing that this is just the beginning," he said.

Ecuador goalkeeper Hernan Galindez spoke about the unpredictability of opening games. "In the last World Cup, we won the first game and then were left out," he said. "Argentina lost the first game and won the World Cup."

TIME TO ASK APOLLO AI
SUMMER: CRAMPS
Sweating out vital salts triggers severe muscle cramps in 60% of adults.
Scan to stay energised
For any Health Query Chat with
Ask Apollo AI
Apollo AI: Clinical excellence for healthier India
Powered by Apollo 24|7

KAMADA HEADS, JAPAN FOLLOWS

Moriyasu's side on way to becoming every neutral's favourite at this World Cup

Vishal.Menon@timesofindia.com

Japan refused to let the night slip from their grasp. As the clock ticked toward defeat and the Netherlands edged closer to victory, the Samurai Blue summoned one final surge of belief.

A corner in the 89th minute was met with a towering header from substitute Koki Ogawa, only to ricochet off the unsuspecting head of Daichi Kamada and loop gloriously beyond the diving Dutch goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen. In an instant, despair turned to delirium as Japan's fans erupted in celebration, their team snatching a pulsating late equaliser.

The goal encapsulated the never-say-die spirit of Japan's football — securing a thrilling 2-2 draw against the Dutch in one of the most dazzling spectacles of the World Cup so far.

Over 6,500 miles away from Dallas, images coming in from Tokyo's iconic Shibuya crossing showed thousands of jubilant fans transforming an overcast early morning into a sea of colour. Twirling beneath the cloudy skies, the blue and white jerseys created a dazzling mosaic of frenzy as they waved the country's flags in delight at this rousing comeback.

Bulk of the credit for Japan's dramatic late goal should also go to head coach Hajime Moriyasu and his inventive touchline management. His quiet influence is also the reason many have tipped Asia's best team to go far this time.

As the match entered the closing stages, Moriyasu and his staff held up a series of boards displaying numbers, to show the players the tactical switches. This coded method kept the instructions hidden, while bewildering opponents.

Reuters

BOARD GAMES: Japan coach Hajime Moriyasu passes on strategic messages to his players in Sunday's 2-2 draw with the Netherlands

"We were trailing behind a difficult opponent. The players were united, tenacious, and did not cease to persevere," Moriyasu said later.

Japan were without their captain Wataru Endo, who retired after failing to recover in time from a foot injury. Consequently, Moriyasu tweaked his midfield, deploying Ao Tanaka and Kamada to press, with wing-back Keito Nakamura providing the burst of energy.

Japan's ability to innovate and compete are a product of how successfully its football culture has embraced the world. Today, a Japanese team is shaped as much in Dusseldorf, Brighton and Liverpool, as it is in Tokyo and Yokohama.

Takefusa Kubo, dubbed the "Japanese Messi", crisscrossed borders before adulthood, embodies the new generation comfortably operating between cultures. The most symbolic figure is Kamada, who honed his skills in Japan's youth system, before joining Lazio. In 2024, he joined Premier League team Crystal Palace, helping them win the FA Cup.

Japanese footballers are the posterboys of globalisation in sport, but they are yet to progress beyond the last 16 of a World Cup. Moriyasu, Japan's coach since 2018, terms it a "mental block." The Samurai Blue would do well to build on Sunday's stirring comeback against the Netherlands to break into the final four.

Can Algeria do a Saudi on Argentina?

HOME TRUTHS
ROMARIO

The World Cup opener has often been tricky for Argentina. No need to go back decades. Even in 2022, they started with a 1-2 defeat against Saudi Arabia. That they bounced back to win the trophy is a different matter.

This time, no less a danger awaits them in the form of Algeria. Going by rankings, World No. 1 versus No. 28 isn't exactly a humdinger in the making. But as numerous World Cups have witnessed, this gap in numbers doesn't always influence outcomes.

Eyes will be on Lionel Messi in what is expected to be his last World Cup. Hopes will be high following his exploits in Qatar. His runs down the line, control, passes to find the right man in a position to score and the will to dictate terms were a treat to watch. But he is going to turn 39 soon. Can he recreate the magic in the US.

Algeria can be a tough nut to crack. Like Morocco, this team from northern Africa is tactically sound, physically strong and unafraid of big names. There is a fair amount of flair in their ranks too. They have lost only once in their last 17 matches. There is verve and steel in this side under coach Vladimir Petkovic.

TOI Print Exclusive

Algeria's star is Riyad Mahrez, who played with distinction under Pep Guardiola for Manchester City. He loves to cut in from the right, send decisive balls and take shots which surprise the goalkeeper. His experience can be a crucial factor.

Petkovic's favoured system is 4-2-3-1. It's a formation with defensive and attacking flexibility. He can switch to 4-3-3 too, but I think against the reigning world champions, they might prefer to stay solid in defence.

One of Argentina's strengths is coach Lionel Scaloni's flexibility of thought. He studies his opponents and formulates strategies to break them. Attacking options like Julian Alvarez and Lautaro Martinez alongside Messi are a threat to any team.

Argentina should be concerned with their central defensive pair of Christian Romero and Nicolas Otamendi though. It's an area the Albiceleste were strong in 2022. Four years is a long time and things have changed since.

There is a big surname in the Algerian ranks. Zinedine Zidane's son Luca is a goalkeeper in the Algerian squad. Like Mahrez, Luca was born in France, but changed his sporting nationality to Algeria. If he plays, Messi versus Zidane will create headlines. PMG

AFP

M&M: It will be Messi versus Mahrez in the Group J opener in Kansas

ARGENTINA VS ALGERIA
World Cup 2026 (Group J)

World Cup titles
Argentina: **3** (1978, 1986, 2022)
Algeria: **0**

World Cup appearances
Argentina: **19th**
Algeria: **5th**

Best World Cup finish
Argentina: **Champions (1978, 1986, 2022)**
Algeria: **Round of 16 (2014)**

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Meetings: **1**
Argentina wins: **1**
Last meeting: **Argentina 4-3** Algeria (friendly, 2007)

6.30 am (Wed) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

Ayari, of Tunisian heritage, stars for Sweden

Monterrey: Tunisia's defence was impregnable during their qualifying campaign but it was given a harsh reality check in their opener as the ruthless Swedish strike partnership of Alexander Isak and Viktor Gyokeres proved too hot to handle. The Scandinavians cruised to a 5-1 victory that exposed the fragility of a defence that had not conceded a single goal in qualifying.

Sweden piled on more misery with Isak and Gyokeres tormenting Tunisia's back line with clever movement and runs into the channels that pulled their opponents out of shape. Yasin Ayari provided the creativity in midfield for the Swedes and he opened the scoring after seven minutes with a thunderous strike before adding another late on to complete the rout.

Ayari, whose father is Tunisian, chose not to celebrate his opener. The 22-year-old Ayari was born in Solna, Sweden, to a Tunisian father, Azzouz Ayari.

Ayari, who represented Sweden at the youth level, was given the chance to switch allegiances and play for Tunisia ahead of the 2022 World Cup, but he declined.

When asked about his son's choice to represent Sweden, Azzouz Ayari told Swedish newspaper Aftonbladet earlier this year that he agreed with the decision. "No, I wanted him to play for Sweden," Azzouz Ayari said. "He must feel like he's giving back to the country that took care of him."

YASIN AYARI

In the final seconds, Ayari scored a second goal with a long-range shot to the left corner. He celebrated more enthusiastically, sliding on his knees while cupping his ear with his hand toward the Sweden fans behind the goal.

Tunisia tried to build attacks but were smothered by Sweden's packed midfield, which outnumbered their opponents in central areas and denied Hannibal Mejbri the space he usually thrives in. He still managed to provide the assist for Omar Rekik's goal, but otherwise struggled to impose himself on the contest. AGENCIES

Tunisia coach Lamouchi is Cup's first casualty

Tunisia fired head coach Sabri Lamouchi on Monday after a lopsided loss in their first World Cup game. The Tunisian Football Federation announced his dismissal on its Instagram account. Written in Arabic, the statement was translated by Google.

"An agreement has been officially reached to dismiss coach Sabri Lamouchi," the statement read.

"Plans are underway to appoint Mondher Kebaier as the national team coach (on an interim basis) to complete the World Cup qualifying matches."

FRANCE AND FAMILIAR FOES

No thoughts of revenge as Les Bleus start against Senegal, says coach Deschamps

East Rutherford: France coach Didier Deschamps said his side were not out for revenge in their World Cup opener against Senegal on Tuesday, 24 years after an opening loss to the African powerhouse preceded a calamitous group-stage exit and a bitter memory for their fans.

The holders in 2002, Les Bleus were stunned when they lost their opening match 1-0 to Senegal in Seoul. France never righted the campaign, with a 0-0 draw against Uruguay and a 2-0 defeat by Denmark in a final humiliation sealing an early exit. "Listen, this was history but even (midfielder) N'Golo (Kante) I'm not sure he saw the game. Nearly most of my players weren't born in 2002," Deschamps said in East Rutherford on Monday, where the 2022 runners-up play Senegal in Group I at the New York New Jersey Stadium.

FRANCE VS SENEGAL
12:30 am (Wed) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

"I know that you like this word 'revenge' but there's no revenge in football." The 2018 champions will be under the spotlight in swampy New Jersey, with prodigious striker Kylian Mbappe — a bona fide celebrity even in the soccer-ambivalent United States — playing under scrutiny from critics after he drew a blank in warm-up games against Ivory Coast and Northern Ireland.

Inside the France camp, support for Mbappe appears unwavering.

Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembele, who has emerged as one of the team's most influential figures, said the criticism directed at his long-time teammate and close friend had gone too far. "The criticism towards him is very, very unfair," Dembele told Spanish newspaper Marcaw.

Playing Senegal for the first time since that 2002 loss adds to the drama as France hunt a third straight trip to the final. "(Senegal have) got excellent players," said Deschamps. "They've got an offensive capacity, their midfield is excellent."

The 35-year-old Kante, a key piece of France's triumphant 2018 campaign who is back in the mix after missing 2022 with an injury, said he expected a tough fight with Senegal's midfield. The Fenerbahce player added that beating Senegal was important to set the right tone for the tournament, not for revenge.

"We want to be part of this squad and to have everyone on board, everybody counts, everybody is important," he said. "I do believe that it's important to have trust in our team. We need to go as far as possible in the competition ...

"Of course, our main opponent is ourselves. We need to stay together, concentrated." AGENCIES

THAT DAY IN HISTORY: Senegal's Papa Bouba Diop scores the winning goal against France in Seoul at the 2002 World Cup

> "I have a lot of top-quality players, but for many of them this will be their first World Cup. I'm not going to say that France is stronger than everyone else, but Spain is the clear favourite."
> —**Didier Deschamps** | FRANCE COACH

24 Tonight's encounter comes 24 years after the Senegalese edged to a 1-0 victory over defending champions France in Seoul in the opening match of the 2002 WC. That's the only time the two sides have met so far.

20 Coach Didier Deschamps takes charge of France for the 20th game at the World Cup. Only six other tacticians – some of whom have occupied the dugout at the global showpiece for more than one nation – have achieved this tally: Helmut Schon (25), Carlos Alberto Parreira (23), Luiz Felipe Scolari (21) and Bora Milutinovic, Oscar Tabarez and Mario Zagallo (all 20).

TOGETHER WE FIGHT: France's Ousmane Dembele (R) has come in defence of captain Kylian Mbappe

Austria coach Rangnick to stay on till 2028

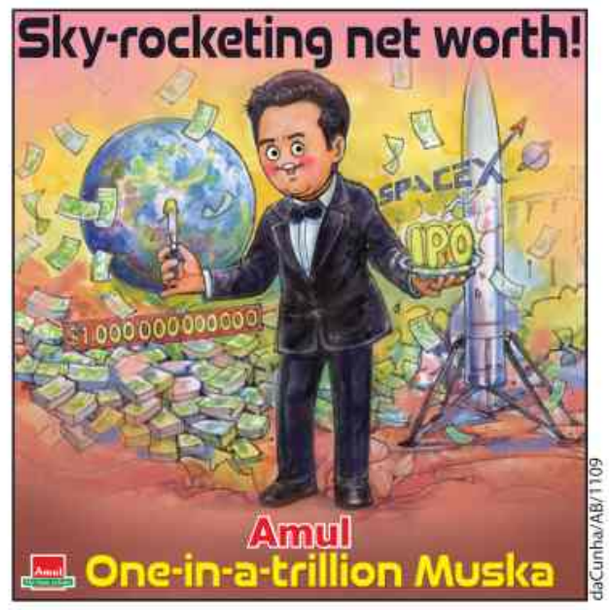
Vancouver: Austria coach Ralf Rangnick extended his contract until 2028 on Saturday after media reports had linked him with a technical director role at AC Milan.

Austria begin their World Cup campaign on Tuesday against Jordan at the San Francisco Bay Area Stadium. They are in Group J, which also includes holders Argentina and Algeria.

The 67-year-old German managed Manchester United from 2021 to 2022 before taking charge of Austria later that year. His previous deal had been set to run until after the World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

Rangnick helped Austria qualify for a World Cup for the first time in 28 years. "Rangnick will continue the successful run with the Austrian national team and remain in his role with the Austrian Football Association at least until Euro 2028," it said in a statement.

"Under Rangnick's leadership, the Austrian squad has developed exceptionally well both on the field and structurally in recent years and has established itself on the international stage." Austrian soccer was in the doldrums for decades but Ralf Rangnick's men have a swagger about them since a dashing run at Euro 2024 that ended in a last-16 classic against Turkey. AGENCIES



Nothing to be ashamed of: Curacao coach after 7-1 loss

Houston: Curacao's World Cup debut may have ended in a reality check of a 7-1 hammering by four-time champions Germany on Sunday but it "is nothing to be ashamed of" said their head coach Dick Advocaat. At 78, he is the oldest coach to appear at a World Cup finals. "It is not embarrassing to lose like that against such a team," said Advocaat at the post match press conference in Houston.

"This team (Germany) is worth 850 million and Curacao, 25." Curacao, the smallest nation by population ever to qualify for the tournament.

"Germany were too strong and we gave away too many easy goals," lamented Advocaat, who was also present at the previous World Cup hosted in the US, 32 years ago, when he was in charge of the Dutch.

Advocaat, who returned to take charge of Curacao after stepping aside in February when his daughter fell ill, said his and his staff's task was to restore morale ahead of next Saturday's Group E game against Ecuador.

"Obviously 7-1 is a heavy defeat," he said. "We must make sure no one's head drops, that they do not remain in a bad state of mind. Advocaat, who wiped away tears before the kick-off, said the heavy defeat was made up for by the "fantastic scenes of happiness in the stands" from the fans fondly known as the 'Blue Wave'. "It is already formidable what we achieved in qualifying for the finals," he said. AFP

Teams face major logistics challenges

Guadalajara: The Czech Republic started its World Cup campaign by travelling from its base camp in Dallas across the border to Guadalajara in Mexico. The team is now back in Texas preparing for its next game in Atlanta. It will then return to Mexico for its third group match.

Newcomer Curacao is expected to travel some 5,300 miles (8,600 kilometers) back-and-forth from its base in Florida to games in Houston, Kansas City and Philadelphia. Bosnia-Herzegovina will rack up nearly 5,200 miles (8,400 kilometers) across Canada and the U.S. while going from its base in Utah to games in Toronto, Los Angeles and Seattle.

The biggest World Cup ever has brought some logistics challenges to the 48 teams in the tournament being played across three countries and four time zones.

"We just have to live with it because that's what others planned for us," Czech Republic coach Miroslav Koubek said through a translator after a 2-1 loss to South Korea in Guadalajara last Thursday. "Our logistics behind the scenes is good, but of course it's not ideal that we have to travel that much."

Turkey coach Vincenzo Montella said "this is the reality, we have to adapt."

His squad trains in Arizona, about 1,200 miles (1,930 kilometers) from Vancouver, where it opened with a 2-0 loss to Australia.

"Of course after the match we'll be back at 5 o'clock in the morning, and it's not easy to recover, especially for people my age," the 51-year-old Montella said through a translator ahead of the match. "After a night out you know it takes a few days to recover. America is big, Canada is very big. Mexico is big. We have to adapt. I know these things you can't change. You can't choose. You just have to adapt so you don't have any excuses."

Canada's squad had to fly nearly five hours to cover the more than 2,000 miles (3,200 kilometers) between Toronto and Vancouver after its opener. The US team will travel nearly that distance in total while going back-and-forth between its training camp in Irvine, California, and its games in the Los Angeles area and Seattle. Mexico is expected to travel less than 600 miles (965 kilometers) within the country. The England team is set to travel the most among the main title contenders, having its camp in Kansas City and playing games in Dallas, Boston and New York. Spain will have to fly nearly four hours from its base in Atlanta to a match in Guadalajara.

Lengthy travelling was a non-issue at the previous World Cup in Qatar, which is roughly the size of Connecticut and is smaller than Switzerland. AP

AFP

Iran players board a plane from Tijuana airport in Mexico for Los Angeles for their first game against New Zealand

Haaland's quest for the Golden Boot begins

Boston: Human goal machine Erling Haaland will seek to get his World Cup account up and running immediately when Norway take on Iraq on Tuesday. The giant, rampaging centre forward netted 16 times in Norway's eight World Cup qualifying games and racked up an unmatched 27 Premier League goals for Manchester City last season.

Haaland wants to bolster his chances of picking up Golden Boot award against an Iraq side playing at the World Cup for the first time in 40 years. Haaland will come face to face with his most likely challenger for that accolade — Kylian Mbappe — when Norway face France in their final Group I game on June 26.

Tuesday's encounter with the Lions of Mesopotamia in Boston is Norway's first match at a World Cup since 1998, when they lost to Italy in zround of 16. Norway could challenge France for top spot in Group I.

Standing in their way on Tuesday are Iraq whose route to Boston was via a 21-match qualifying campaign, ending with victory over Bolivia in the intercontinental playoffs in Mexico . Striker Aymen Hussein, who scored the goal that qualified Iraq for the finals, will be seeking to steal some of Haaland's limelight. REUTERS

10 Norway have won their last 10 matches in a row

IRAQ VS NORWAY
3:30 am (Wed) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

TUCHEL'S 'GRADE E' REF TURPIN TO TAKE CHARGE OF ENGLAND'S OPENER

Kansas City: England's opening World Cup match against Croatia on Wednesday will be refereed by Frenchman Clement Turpin, who was once labelled 'Grade E' by Thomas Tuchel who is now England coach.

Turpin sent then-Bayern Munich manager Tuchel to the stands for protesting during his team's 1-1 draw with Manchester City in the Champions League quarterfinal, second leg in 2023 after showing the German two yellow cards.

Turpin issued five first-half bookings and initially showed Bayern defender Dayot Upamecano a straight red card, a decision overturned following a VAR review. City beat Bayern 4-1 on aggregate.

"Two things couldn't keep up with the level, the pitch wasn't in good condition and also the referee, unfortunately, was Grade E," Tuchel said after the match.

"I'd give him a one out of 10. He was absolutely terrible. He was whistling for everything and anything. Everything was against us."

England's Jude Bellingham has also clashed with the French referee, who pushed the Real Madrid player away from the penalty area when he tried to distract Bayern's Harry Kane as he stepped up to take a penalty in a Champions League semi-final in 2024. "I'm sure (Bellingham) was saying something to try and put me off but, thankfully, it was OK," Bellingham's England teammate Kane said after the game.

SNAP SHOTS

NEERAJ TO RETURN TO ACTION AT DOHA DL

Fit-again Indian javelin throw superstar Neeraj Chopra will return to competitive action at the Doha Diamond League on June 19. The 28-year-old has been recuperating from a back injury which has prevented him from competing so far in the season. "First throw of 2026 lands in Doha! Neeraj Chopra returns to competitive action on June 19," his management firm Vel Sports announced on Instagram.

Bhullar finishes T-31: Gaganjeet Bhullar emerged as the best-performing Indian at the International Series Morocco in Rabat, closing with a final-round 1-over 73 to finish tied 31st at the $2 million Asian Tour event. Bhullar put together rounds of 70, 74, 68 and 73 for a four-day total of 6-under-par. Karandeep Kochhar struggled to a closing 78 and slipped to tied 61st. Ajeetesh Sandhu also found the conditions difficult and carded a 77 to finish alongside Kochhar.

Nagal, Sahaja to lead India challenge: India's top-ranked singles players Sumit Nagal and Sahaja Yamalapalli will spearhead the country's tennis campaign at the Asian Games in Japan as AITA on Monday picked a six-member men's and women's squad. The men's squad comprises of Nagal, Manas Dhamne and Dhakshineswar Suresh. There are three doubles specialists led by Yuki Bhambri, N Sriram Balaji and Anirudh Chandrasekar. In the women's section, Sahaja, Vaishnavi Adkar, Vaidehee Choudhari are the singles players. Rutuja Bhosale, Prarthana Thombare and Ankita Raina have been selected for doubles.

McCullum 'worried' about Stokes: England head coach Brendon McCullum said he is "worried" about Ben Stokes after the captain was involved in a late-night incident that led to his absence from this week's second Test against New Zealand. Speaking on Monday, a sombre McCullum said he experienced a range of emotions from anger to concern when he learnt of Stokes' antics at a Chelsea nightspot. "When I first found out about it I was slightly bewildered, if I'm being honest. Very quickly my overall emotion turned to worry and concern for Ben in particular."

Deepti, India's big-stage specialist

Manuja.Veerappa@timesofindia.com

Back in April, when Deepti Sharma was wading through a lean patch on India's tour of South Africa, bowling coach Aavishkar Salvi had played down concerns around the off-spinner's form. "It's only a matter of a few instances where she just strikes and comes back shining," Salvi had said.

On Sunday at Edgbaston, Deepti turned that prophecy into a statement. Returning to a venue that is fast becoming her personal stage, the 28-year-old produced a devastating spell of 5/10 to script India's emphatic win over Pakistan in their ICC Women's T20 World Cup opener. It was a performance that reinforced her reputation as a big-match player—someone who rises when the stakes are highest.

T20 WORLD CUP

Her last ICC appearance had ended on a similar note. In the ODI World Cup final last year, Deepti's 5/39 played a pivotal role in India lifting their maiden title. Against Pakistan, she once again stepped in just as the game threatened to drift, dismantling the middle order with control and craft.

On a used surface, Deepti mixed her pace cleverly. The slower, loopier deliveries gripped and turned, while her subtle variations in flight tempted batters into errors. It was a masterclass in reading conditions and adjusting on the go.

The resurgence, however, was not overnight. During a quiet run in bilateral series, Deepti doubled down behind the scenes—putting in long hours at the nets, sharpening her fitness, and fine-tuning her game under Salvi's watch. "I'm focusing on my process—the same things I do in practice, I apply in matches. These things help me move forward and keep improving day by day," Deepti said.

Big tournaments, she admits, bring out her best. "I think I like pressure conditions and ICC tournaments. It feels like I've started again from where I had finished at the ODI World Cup," she said.

Even when wickets dried up earlier, doubt never crept in. "I was not worried. I always believe that when the right time comes, I'll step up for the team," she said.

Now the leading wicket-taker in the format, Deepti underlined the importance of adaptability.

"I varied my pace because the pitch was turning. Bowling slower in the air and hitting the right areas helped," she added.

With nerves settled and momentum secured, Deepti made it clear that India are not carrying the burden of expectation despite being reigning ODI champions.

"It doesn't matter how you start your campaign. We're not taking that as pressure—we just want to play our best cricket every match," she said.

Reuters

MATCH WINNER: Deepti Sharma

Joshna set for record seventh appearance

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Chennai: Only a handful of athletes sustain excellence across generations, and Joshna Chinappa is among them. Having made her Asian Games debut at the age of 15, the veteran squash player is now on course for a record seventh appearance at the continent's biggest multi-sport event, 24 years later.

On Sunday, Joshna finished on top of Group A in the trials here, winning all four of her matches. The result secured her a place in the Asian Games squad, with the official list set to be released after the conclusion of trials.

ASIAN GAMES

"I remember that trip (Busan Asiad) so clearly. It was one of my favorite events because I was playing for India on such a big stage. I got to spend time and hang out with all the top athletes. My biggest joy and motivation are playing for India and that has always been, from the time I was young," Joshna said. "Before squash made the Olympics, the Asian Games and the Commonwealth Games were the biggest events for us to showcase what a great sport squash is. Of course, to win medals over there also was very special. So that was what going into the Games was for us," Joshna added.

In the trials, before the final Group game, Joshna had conceded only one game, but on Sunday, youngster Unnati Tripathi gave a good account of herself before going down 2-3 to the veteran. Earlier, Joshna defeated Pooja Arthi, Rathika Seelan and Akanksha Salunkhe. Joshna had to play two matches on a single day and found her draw pretty tough."I just hope that I can contribute as a member of the team in the Asian Games."

Deepika powers India past USA

Auckland: The Indian women's hockey team staged a remarkable comeback to clinch a 3-2 win over the USA in its opening Pool A match of the FIH Nations Cup here on Monday.

For India, Deepika netted a brace while Navneet Kaur also scored. Ashley Sessa and Madeleine Zimmer were on the score-sheet for the USA.

The USA opened the scoring through Ashley, who found the back of the net with a field goal in the fourth minute. The Americans doubled their advantage just three minutes later when Madeleine Zimmer (7) converted a penalty corner.

HOCKEY

Deepika (17) successfully converted a penalty corner to reduce the deficit and bring India back into the game. Deepika (24) stepped up once again and successfully converted another penalty corner to level the score at 2-2. Navneet (28) converted a penalty corner to hand India the lead. PTI

Tempers flare as SL bag chaotic win

Dambulla: Sri Lanka 'A' finally found a way to get over the line against India 'A' following a Super Over in an emotionally charged tri-series game here on Monday.

Tempers flared after Kugathas Mathulan was able to keep calm under pressure and defend 16 runs against the destructive Indian duo of Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Suryansh Shedge.

TRI-SERIES

Physical contact too happened as Sooryavanshi was seen pushing a Sri Lankan player following the dramatic finish. It was surprising that Sooryavanshi did not face the first ball of the Super Over. In regulation time, left-arm pacer Arshad Khan bowled a yorker filled final over to take the game into the Super Over after Sadeera Samarawickrame's sublime 93 to put Sri Lanka 'A' on the cusp of victory.

Arshad conceded just four runs in the final over in which the hosts needed only five runs. Post the tie result, confusion prevailed over the outcome of the game with India 'A' captain Tilak Varma pushing the umpires to carry on with the game via a Super Over. After due deliberation, the umpires had a change of heart and decided to take the game into a Super Over.

However, the Super Over bowled by Arshad turned out expensive as he leaked 16. Mathulan was able to defend successfully against the destructive Indian duo, which managed only nine. **Brief scores: India 'A' 265 all out in 49.2 overs** (Ruturaj Gaikwad 37, Suryansh Shedge 72, Vipraj Nigam 51; Mohamed Shiraz 3-33, Vijayakanth Viyaskanth 3-26) lost to **Sri Lanka 'A' 265/9 in 50 overs** (Niroshan Dickwella 37, Sadeera Samarawickrama 93, Wanuja Sahan 25; Ayush Badoni 2-45) via Super Over. PTI

TOI

A TV grab of Vaibhav Sooryavanshi getting into a fracas with a Sri Lanka A player in Dambulla

Stephen shines for Shlok HC

Stephen Swami starred with four goals as Shlok Hockey Club thumped 5 'C' Sports Club 5-1 in the KSHA Super Division Hockey League Championship in Bengaluru on Monday. Amid Khan also added a goal for the winners.

Results: Shlok HC 5 (Stephen Swami 6, 13, 17, 24, Amid Khan 38) 5 'C' Sports Club 1 (Govinda 28); Falcon HC 4 (Gowtham Ganapathy 4, Sridhar 25, Vivek 27, Achaiah 32) bt Rainbow HC 1 (Muthu Kumar 44).

Today's matches: Falcon HC vs Shlok HC (1.15pm); Rainbow HC vs 5 'C' SC (2.45 pm).

SHREYANSH, DHVIJA TOP CHARTS

Shreyansh Das and Dhvija Anand took top honours at the State U-9 Chess Championship in Bengaluru. While Bengaluru's Shreyansh topped the boys' charts with a total of 8.5 points, Kaustubh Thejkumar finished second with 8 points. Meanwhile, Dhvija topped the rankings of the girls' section with a total of 7.5 points, while Dishani S secured second spot with 7 points. The top two players from each category will represent Karnataka at the National U-9 Chess Championship, which will be held in Ranchi in July. **Final Rankings: Girls:** Dhvija Anand (Bengaluru) 7.5; Dishani S (Bengaluru) 7; Hemasree Challagulla (Bengaluru) 7. **Boys:** Shreyansh Das (Bengaluru) 8.5; Kaustubh Thejkumar (Mysuru) 8; Uday Maheshwari (Bengaluru) 7.5

LOCAL ROUND-UP

AFGHAN FC PREVAIL

Afghan FC registered a 1-0 win over Postal Dept FC in the BDFA 'C' Division League football tournament in Bengaluru on Monday. In another match, Bentex FC eased to a 4-0 win over ECD FC.

Results: Gp 13: Afghan FC 1 (Daeshan M 47) bt Postal Dept FC 0. **Gp 14:** Bentex FC 4 (Mohammed Danish 28, 30, Mihamned Rabeeh KP 29, Muzam Mil 58) bt ECD FC 0; Universal FC 3 (Nandan MD 17, Suman MS 35, Ginesh Kumar 60+1) bt Dharma Raja Union FC 0. **Gp 15:** Bangalore Phantom FC 5 (HC MalsawmLunnga 14, Whengham Dishan Singh 17, 30, Richardson Nongmaithem 34, Shiv Charan Mahato 58) bt Muslims Heroes FC 0. **Gp 16:** Agaram FC 6 (Atmanu Baragohani 12, SH Janmidh Promod Vayalari 18, Vijay 27, Deva Jothi Shaji 32, Arun Kumar B 43, Sanju Jaison 48) bt UFA Banaswadi FC 2 (Vishnu V 52, Arshin Manu 60-pen) **Today's matches: Gp 9**: ISRO FC vs Reds United FC (8am); **Gp 10:** Bangalore Boys FC vs Tilak Memorial FC (9.15am); Vinayaka FC vs Bangalore Mars FC (10.30am); **Gp 11:** BHEL(EDN) FC vs Bangalore Youngsters FC (11.45am); IISC FC vs C2 FC (1pm); **Gp 12**: Bagalkunte FC vs Young Gems FC (2.15pm); Excelsior FC vs Jolly Bro FC (3.30pm).

EX-STATE JUNIOR PLAYER STANY NO MORE

Former Karnataka junior footballer SL Stany, 66, passed away on Monday. The forward, who represented the state sub-junior (1980) and junior (1981), featured for teams like KRSTC, AGORC, and CIL. He is survived by his wife and two daughters. TNN

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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Joshna Chinappa earns record seventh berth as India finalises its squash squad for the 2026 Asian Games following selection trials held in Chennai

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*basis domestic sales data of top 4-wheeler brands in India for Jan – Apr 2026 as reported by SIAM

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7 year warranty*

RE-012-LT

new Renault Duster
price starting at
₹10.49L^
turbo charged 163 ps with 280Nm torque
dual openR screens with Google built-in
7-year warranty

*Renault Duster now comes with a maximum warranty of up to 7 years or 1 50 000 kms, whichever is earlier, under the Renault Forever program. turbo charged 163 ps with 280Nm torque is for Turbo TCe 160 MT & DCT engines. Google, Google Play, Google Maps, Waze and other marks are trademarks of Google LLC, depending on countries. ^the price/features mentioned in this advertisement may vary depending on the model/variant and features in the car. for detailed terms and conditions, please visit www.renault.co.in.

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